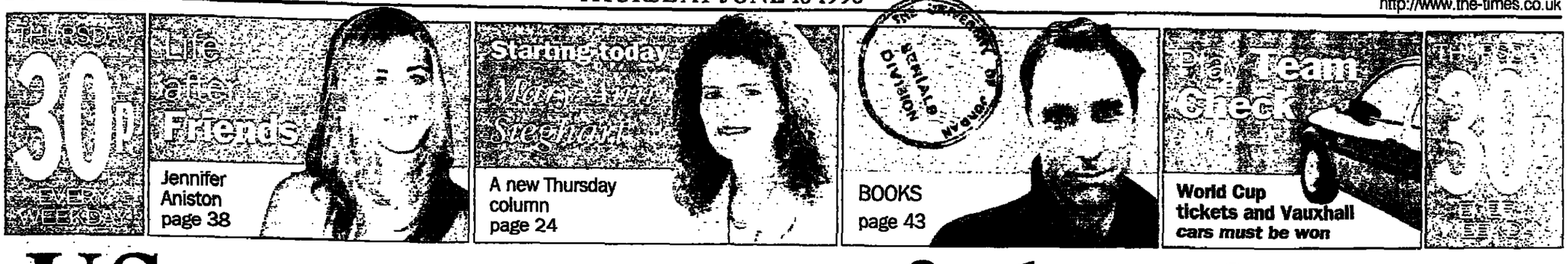
THE TIMES

No. 66,231 THURSDAY JUNE 18 1998 http://www.the-times.co.uk



US goes to rescue of plunging yen

BY JANET BUSH, BRONWEN MADDOX AND ROBERT WHYMANT

PRESIDENT CLINTON rushed to the aid of the plummeting Japanese yen yesterday in an attempt to head off a dramatic worsening of the Asian financial crisis that could trigger a world slump.

The $2 billion rescue operation marks America's acceptance that it must act as the world's financial policeman, as the sole power capable of tackling the threats posed by the previously glittering Asian economies.

But President Clinton acted only after demanding "effective action" from the Tokyo authorities to haul their economy out of recession. He said that Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, had promised aggressive reform to his country's financial system and measures to stimulate economic growth.

Mr Clinton added: "Japan is very important to the world, especially to the United States, and to the efforts we're making to support an economic recovery in Asia, which is very important to keeping our own economic progress going. It is important that they take some critical steps and, as they do them, we will support them. We've got a chance to turn that situation in Asia around before it gets any worse."

Yesterday's move, which came after a lengthy telephone call between the two leaders on Tueday evening, marks a U-turn by the Americans, who had previously refused to intervene. Mr Clinton is also sending Lawrence Summers, Deputy Secretary at the US Treasury, to Tokyo for urgent talks, which will also include meetings with finance officials from the G7 industrial powers.

Earlier this week, China warned that the collapse of the yen could force it to devalue its own currency, the yuan, which could in turn trigger another collapse in Asian currencies and worsen the region's already desperate economic situation. And on Tuesday, a leading World Bank official gave warning that Asia was on the threshold of depression which threatened a global economic slump.

The buying of yen and selling of dollars yesterday had an immediate, substantial impact. On Tuesday, the yen had fallen to its lowest level for nearly eight years at Y146.75 to the dollar. By the close of European trading yesterday, it had jumped to Y137.60.

There was speculation in Tokyo that both the intervention and Mr Summers's visit are connected with President Clinton's visit to China next week. Hiroyuki Onishi, director of foreign exchange at Barclays Bank in Tokyo, said: "With all the rhetoric by Asian officials lately, especially from China, the United States may feel political pressure to do something."

Analysts said, however, that the intervention should not be interpreted as an unconditional American lifeboat for Japan. If the US has felt under pressure to act in the global economic interest — and in the interests of Wall Street — Tokyo has been under unprecedented fire from its economic partners for its failure to seize the initiative.

Hours before the joint currency intervention, Japan's Parliament passed a special Y4.65 trillion (£20 billion) supplementary budget that will finance part of the record Y16.65 trillion (£72 billion)package of tax cuts and public spending announced in April in an effort to lift Japan out of economic stagnation.

Hikaru Matsunaga, Japan's Finance Minister, said that he would seek to reassure Mr Summers that Japan was doing its best to tackle the problem of mounting mad debts in the banking sector, the cancer that threatens to prolong the recession in the world's second largest economy.

Yesterday's developments caught the financial markets just when they had virtually run out of any confidence, a classic "bear squeeze". The results were dramatic: both Wall Street and London surged. The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped by more than 200 during morning trading and the FTSE 100 Index closed 103 points higher at 5,832.7, its second largest points gain this year.

Even before the Fed jumped into the foreign exchanges, stock markets in Asia had soared in anticipation of some kind of joint operation between the Japanese and US governments after news of Mr Summers' visit. South Korean shares shot up by 8.5 per cent, the biggest one-day increase ever. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng was up by 6.3 per cent, while shares in Singapore and Thailand rose by 5.6 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

Leading article, page 25
Markets bounce back, page 29
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Beckett furious over pay defeat by Brown

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

RELATIONS between Margaret Beckett and Gordon Brown were seriously strained last night after the President of the Board of Trade lost her battle over the national minimum wage.

Mrs Beckett, who had been pressing for the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission to be implemented in full, will today announce that the rate for 18- to 21-year-olds is to start at £3 an hour, 20p lower than that proposed.

Mrs Beckett was said by ministerial friends to be "spitting blood" over the insistence of Mr Brown, her long-time ally, that the commission's proposals should be cut back.

The commission had proposed a rate of £3.60 for most employees, which Mrs Beckett will confirm to the Commons today, but £3.20 for those aged between 18 and 20.

Now — after a fierce Cabinet battle in which Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, sided with Mr Brown against Mrs Beckett and other left-wingers — the lower rate will be phased in over 15 months, starting at £3, and will apply to 21-year-olds as well.

For older workers there will be a lower "development rate" below the £3.60 an hour for those who are just starting in a job.

Mr Brown's olive branch offer — to increase the amount of government money going into the new "individual learning accounts" to help people pursue education and training throughout their lives — was apparently rebuffed by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, who argued that it would be counter-productive.

With Mr Blair certain to reshuffle his Cabinet next month, there was speculation yesterday that Mrs Beckett would be moved from the industry department. However, one ministerial source close to both Mrs Beckett and Mr Brown said: "They have had a serious tiff, but they will make it up. They need each other."

Meanwhile, trade unions were gearing up to attack the proposals when they are outlined today. John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB union, said it was scandalous that the low-pay recommendations might not be implemented in full.

Mr Edmonds said: "I don't know why we went to the bother of setting up a Low Pay Commission in the first place. Why didn't we just ask Gordon Brown for his opinion and publish that instead? It is scandalous that a unanimous report, supported by both sides of industry, should be cherry-picked by the Government."

Delegates at the annual conference of the country's biggest union, Unison, also criticised the main rate, although they decided against holding a national demonstration and threatening industrial action after earlier voting in favour of what would have been an escalation of the union's campaign.

At the same conference, Ian McCartney, the Trade Minister, told the unions they should stop "whingeing" and get on with implementing the measures unveiled by Labour since the election aimed at boosting workers' rights.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, the general secretary of Unison, said there was a feeling of anger at the way the commission's report had been treated. Unions were not happy with the expected rates.

He said much of the anger about the minimum wage had been fuelled by leaks from the Government over the Low Pay Commission's recommendations. He said that a rate of £3.60 "at the end of the 20th century, in one of the richest nations on earth ... can't be right".

Mr McCartney, a long-time campaigner for the minimum wage, had told the conference not to back empty resolutions and rhetoric. The minimum wage was an important issue and the unions now had to recruit members and fight for rights. "Get out there and do the job because we have given you the tools to do it with," he added.

Mr McCartney urged delegates to abandon threats of strike action, saying: "Do not snatch defeat out of the jaws of victory."

However, the union, which has 1.3 million members, initially backed plans for a national demonstration and industrial action.

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MARC ASPLAND



The footballer David Beckham said yesterday that he was devastated when he was not chosen to play for England against Tunisia. He dismissed suggestions that he had become a prima donna or that his career was affected by his engagement to the Spice Girl Victoria Adams. Report, page 56

England bans the baked bean

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE baked bean has been dropped by England's World Cup squad. It had been expected that the bean, for years a staple of the sporting diet, would play a crucial role for Glenn Hoddle's team, but the Football Association said yesterday that the sauce contained too much sugar. Broccoli and spinach have been brought in as substitutes.

Baked beans are known to be a favourite of several of the players, including Alan Shearer, whose fondness for plain food when he played for Southampton earned him the nickname "chicken and beans".

But a wind of change is blowing through the approach to diet by the England staff. Dr John Crane, the team dietician, decreed that the beans should be axed in favour of poached fish, pasta with low-fat sauce, grilled chicken and lightly boiled vegetables.

The squad's food intake is carefully monitored, consisting of 60 per cent carbohydrate, 25 per cent protein and 15 per cent fat. Just before matches the carbohydrate level is increased.

The decision to give baked beans the red card caused amazement at Heinz. "Baked beans are full of protein and fibre and low in fat," Nigel Dickie, Heinz's nutrition consultant, said. During the past 20 years the company has stealthily reduced the sugar content by a fifth to about 6 per cent. "We have won awards for doing this."

The sports dietician Penny Hunking said: "I am very surprised at the decision, which purely from a dietetic point of view is an unwise one." And Dr Thomas Stuttaford, who writes for *The Times*, described the decision to deny the team baked beans as most unusual.

"Replacing baked beans with broccoli and spinach is like starving them," he said. "Baked beans contain complex starches needed to release a slow, regular source of energy, essential when taking part in a long and strenuous type of sport such as football. The sugar content in the sauce doesn't matter at all — they will burn that off in no time."

Sack hooligans, page 7
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Peanut allergy warning for mothers-to-be

BY IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

UP TO 200,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers were warned yesterday not to eat peanuts or peanut products to protect their children from developing allergies.

The advice from the Department of Health is for women who suffer from any allergies or who are closely related to someone who is. Babies are also at risk if the father and his family have a history of suffering from allergies.

Allergies are so prevalent that at least one partner in every three couples is likely to suffer from one or be related to someone who is. The advice also covers children up to the age of three from families with a history of allergy.

Only one in 200 is believed to be allergic to peanuts but about seven people a year die from a reaction to eating them and thousands become ill from coming into contact with even minute quantities.

Sir Kenneth Calman, the chief medical officer, said he was issuing the advice as a precaution because there was increasing evidence that the number of people with peanut allergies was increasing. There was scientific research that suggested foetuses and infants exposed to peanuts were more at risk of developing allergies to them or to other substances.

"The evidence is not strong and further epidemiological research is needed, but as a precaution we feel women in these categories would be wiser not to eat peanuts," he said.

"For the overwhelming majority of the public there will be no need to change their eating habits. Today's advice will go a long way towards helping to prevent the handful of dramatic and tragic deaths we do see each year and will, we hope, start to limit the growth of peanut allergy in this country. It is definitely an instance where 'an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure'."

The advice was based on a report about peanut allergy issued yesterday by the Com

Continued on page 2, col 8

320ft Siamese twins for the Dome

BY POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

AFTER months of wrangling over the gender of the giant statue that is to dominate the inside of the Millennium Dome, its creators have hit on a bizarre solution that will horrify anatomists and upset the squeamish.

Designers for Peter Mandelson's beloved project have drawn up new plans to give the vast sculpture two torsos, joined down one side from the shoulder to the top of the legs. One will have a woman's breasts, the other the muscular chest of a man.

The biological creation will share two legs, two arms and one head, but not genitalia. The private parts of each will be "smoothed over" as if they were covered with swimwear, but there will be no doubting which is which.

A spokesman for the New Millennium Experience Company, which is overseeing the development of the Dome, said yesterday: "The man will have an athletic bulge." The woman's bust is expected to be of "average" size — albeit in proportion to her height of 320ft.

The NMEC spokesman said: "We had a big question of whether it was a man or a woman ... the current plans mean that we have cracked it." He described the figure as "like Siamese twins" — but critics immediately said it was a "genetic monostrosity".

Woodward heads home

Louise Woodward was expected to fly to Britain from Boston last night at the end of the criminal proceedings arising from the death of baby Matthew Eappen. Her conviction for manslaughter means that she will be on "at risk" registers at home and forbidden to work as a childminder. She faces civil proceedings in America, but denies that she intends to sell her story to finance the legal fight ..... Page 9

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Opposing sides call on foreigners to referee home games

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

To this has our politics sunk: our leaders pray in aid the foreign press for their personal character references. Yesterday in the Commons the Leader of the Opposition read out remarks from a French magazine and a Finnish politician. These were critical of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister replied by reciting passages from Spanish, French and German newspapers. These thought he was a good chap. Mr Blair had come fore-armed with a folder of compliments from abroad, just in case anyone wanted to disparage him.

Has our political self-confidence sunk so low that to settle domestic squabbles we ask editors of Continental rags to adjudicate our leaders' talents? Is a Finn to blow the referee's whistle in the Blair v Hague game? Does a British Prime Minister regard himself as strengthened by the endorsement of the scribblers and hacks of Lyons and Zaragosa?

The Tory Leader gave us few details about the French magazine that views Mr Blair with disfavour. For all we know the disobliging comment from which he drew such comfort is framed by a gallery of snapshots of French ladies' bottoms. Criticisms we are to regard as settling controversy over the British presidency of the European Union may appear opposite a page of bared bosoms or naked weightlifters.

Tony Blair did not even reveal the names of the foreign papers which he says now lionise his leadership. The opinion column with so high a regard for his judgment may be a second leader, beneath one commenting on a landing on Mars of a Madrid bus or the arrival in Hamburg of one-eyed spacemen from the planet Neptune.

Is this dignified? Can you imagine Palmerstone quoting favourable opinions about himself printed in Bulgarian newssheets? Would Gladstone have responded to Disraeli's attacks by reminding Hon Members that the Portuguese press had given his Home Rule Bill a warm welcome?

Could Disraeli's riposte have been: "Aha! But has the Right Hon Gentleman noted the Belgian welcome for my views? I happen to have with me a cutting from the *Gazet van Antwerpen*. If I may, Mr Speaker, I shall quote their *political editor* ..."

And yesterday, shrugging off William Hague's appeals to the judgments of others, Tony Blair came perilously close to taking a swipe at Glenys Kinnock.

"As for his list of quotes," huffed a contemptuous Blair, "from, I don't know — what was it? — a Finnish newspaper, Friends of the Earth, and Glenys Kinnock ... I mean, er, you know ..." Just in time, he pictured the headlines "Tony lashes out at Neil's missus" — skidded to a halt in a screech of brakes and a hail of y'knows; and left it there. In politics, as in driving tuition, this is known as the emergency stop.

Mr Blair's bitten lip spoke volumes. Not that we learnt much else from him yesterday, except that he is against rape, critical of soccer hooligans and by no means in favour of racism.

Interrupted by jeers as he treated MPs to his well-worn refrain — "an end to Tory boom and bust" — the Prime Minister suddenly cried "Oh yes!" Can it be long before he is describing his EU presidency as considerably marvellous?

At PM's Questions Hague won the exchanges, but he usually does and nobody cares. Blair just rocked, grinning, as Hague pursued the argument. Blair responds by jeering, like a playground bully, at "*their* side". "*This* side is gonna get national debt down," he crowed; and, later "all the points we said we'd do we've done".

So sucks to you. And, what's more, the Swedes say I'm cool.

Senior officer apologises to Lawrence family

THE parents of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence received a dramatic and unprecedented apology yesterday from the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

Ian Johnston asked to make a statement as he began his evidence to the public inquiry, waiting while the teenager's father, Neville Lawrence, was brought into the chamber from a side office.

Mr Johnston said that in retrospect, the police could have done better in the investigation into the stabbing of the teenager as he waited for a bus in Eltham, southeast London, in April 1993.

In February last year after an inquest, Mr Johnston had said: "I believe right from the start we did everything we could." Yesterday — with the backing of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon — he accepted unreservedly that that was not the case. The internal police review of the investigation, which had suggested nothing had gone wrong, had been "totally discredited".

Police admit they could and should have done better, reports Lin Jenkins

Mr Johnston said: "I wanted to say to you that I am truly sorry that we have let you down. It has been a tragedy for you, you have lost a son and not seen his killers brought to justice. It has been a tragedy for the Metropolitan Police who have lost the confidence of a significant section of the community for the way we have handled the case. I can understand and explain some of what went wrong. I cannot and do not seek to justify it. We are determined to learn lessons from this. A great deal has changed and yet more will change."

The police had "tried to show imagination and determination to prosecute Stephen's killers". "I am very, very sorry and very, very sad that we have let you down. Looking back now I can see that we could have, and should have, done better. I deeply regret that we have not put his killers away."

He said Sir Paul had "specifically" asked to associate himself with the statement and added that he hoped Mr Lawrence would forgive him.

He told Edmund Lawson, QC to the inquiry, that corruption was not the reason for the failure to secure a successfull prosecution but rather "lack of training, ideas, lack of skills, knowledge and organisational procedures".

Asked by Michael Mansfield, QC for the Lawrences, if the commissioner had abandoned his support of the initial police investigation, Mr Johnston replied that Sir Paul was "equally sorry that it has been inappropriately defended". The commissioner was "at the inquiry's disposal".

Mr Johnston said that he was "appalled" that Detective Sergeant David Coles was still serving with the force. The officer, the inquiry was told, was investigated for his links with Clifford Norris, a south London criminal now serving eight years for drugs and firearms offences, who was also the father of a suspect in the murder. Detective Sergeant Coles was dismissed after an investigation arising from his links with Norris. He was reinstated on appeal, but demoted, and was now a detective in southeast London.

He had been deployed to protect Duwayne Brooks, the chief prosecution witness in the private prosecution of three people, one of them David Norris. Asked if it was not "astonishing" that the detective was serving in an area where the Norris family have an influence, Mr Johnston replied: "On the facts put to me, I am appalled that this individual is still working for the Metropolitan Police."

Mr Lawrence later issued a statement saying that he and his wife Doreen, who was not at the hearing, had accepted the apology.

It added: "The commissioner now accepts that the first investigation was flawed and incompetent.

"What will happen to those officers? Will they be disciplined? Will those now retired lose their pensions?"

Mr Lawrence said that the apology should have come three years ago. "I would like now to have the commissioner himself to answer questions — for him himself to apologise."

IAN JOHNSTON'S STATEMENT

This is the full text of Assistant Commissioner Ian Johnston's statement:

"Mr Lawrence, I wanted to say to you that I am truly sorry that we have let you down. It has been a tragedy for you, you have lost a son and not seen his killers brought to justice. It has been a tragedy for the Metropolitan Police who have lost the confidence of a significant section of the community for the way we have handled the case.

I can understand and explain some of what went wrong. I cannot and do not seek to justify it. We are determined to learn lessons from this. A great deal has changed and yet will change. We have tried over the last four years since the first investigation to show imagination and determination to prosecute Stephen's killers.

I am very, very sorry and very, very sad that we have let you down. Looking back now I can see we could have, and should have done better. I deeply regret that we have not put his killers away.

On behalf of myself and the commissioner, who specifically asked me to associate himself with these words, and the whole of the Metropolitan Police, I offer my sincere and deep apologies to you.

Finally I would like to add my own apologies for supporting the earlier investigation in ways in which it has now been shown that I was wrong. I hope the reasons for my support will be understood and I hope that eventually you will forgive me for that as well, Mr Lawrence."

ADRIAN SHERRATT



Ian Johnston told Neville Lawrence: "I am truly sorry that we have let you down"

NEWS IN BRIEF

Solo parent jobs cost £30,000, say Tories

Only 200 lone parents out of a possible 25,000 have found work under the pilot scheme for the Government's New Deal, at a cost of £30,000 for each job, according to figures published by the Conservatives.

The scheme's low success rate of less than 1 per cent — a figure that has been confirmed by the House of Commons library — means the taxpayer is paying an average £15 an hour to each of the 201 beneficiaries, more than a newly qualified junior doctor receives. Iain Duncan Smith, the Shadow Social Security Secretary, said: "We cannot afford it. At this rate the Government could have paid these lone parents almost £600 a week." CSA boycott, page 12

Cloning cure for illness

Diseases such as diabetes may be cured within five years by using methods developed to clone sheep. Healthy cells from the patient would be fused with a donated egg. Seven days later, an embryo would have produced source cells for all the body's organs. Ian Wilmut, of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, said at the Royal Society's Frontiers in Science exhibition that cells might be cultured to treat disease.

Rioting trial collapses

The trial of eight asylum-seekers accused of rioting in a detention centre collapsed at Oxford Crown Court yesterday when the prosecution admitted it could not rely on evidence from Group 4 employees. Up to 20 workers from Campsfield House, run by Group 4, gave evidence but the Crown Prosecution Service abandoned the case because of inconsistencies in the evidence.

Rail strike concern

The *Health and Safety Executive* told railway managers yesterday that passenger safety must not be compromised, even if train services face heavy delays, during a four-day strike by railway workers which begins tomorrow. Railtrack, the track and signalling company, has been pressed by inspectors to ensure that staff are available to deal with emergencies.

Barclay breaks cover

Frederick Barclay, one of Britain's most recluse media magnates, made a rare public appearance to accept an honorary degree at Glasgow University for his business success and charitable donations. Mr Barclay, who with his twin brother David are believed to be worth £650 million, said: *I don't plan to make more appearances like this — I like to be able to shop in Bond Street without being recognised.*"

McCartney gives £1m

Sir Paul McCartney has donated more than £1 million to help to secure the future of the "fame school" for aspiring entertainers. The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts has been facing a £6 million crisis because of an overspend on building work. Further money has come from the National Lottery and the European Union. Sir Paul gave £1.2 million to the original building fund.

Unionists welcome IRA move on arms

Republicans suggest they may destroy own weapons

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE signal from a leading republican that the IRA may destroy its own weapons if Good Friday's peace agreement is properly implemented was hailed as a significant development by security officials and Ulster Unionists yesterday.

Padraic Wilson, the IRA's "commanding officer" in the Maze prison, said he could not envisage the IRA surrendering weapons to the security forces, but told the *Financial Times*: "I think a 'voluntary' decommissioning would be a natural development of the peace process once we get a sense that the arrangements envisaged in the agreement are beginning to function."

The statement was received as being designed to convey the IRA's willingness to address the issue of decommissioning and to boost Sinn Fein's support before next Thursday's elections to Northern Ireland's assembly. It came as Mo Mowlam brokered a deal with David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, over the parliamentary Bill that will lead to the release of hundreds of terrorist prisoners. The Northern Ireland Secretary agreed to table a new amendment that would call on terrorists to decommission their arms within two years to ensure that all their prisoners were released.

Jeffrey Donaldson, the UUP MP for Lagan Valley who rejected the Good Friday agreement, said that he would be voting against the Bill tonight because he claimed that the concession offered no guarantee that arms would actually be handed in.

Ms Mowlam's amendment will say that in addition to co-operating with the commission, the terrorist organisations would have to implement the Good Friday agreement. This was enough to satisfy Mr Trimble.

Ken Maginnis, the UUP's security spokesman, welcomed Wilson's statement for "any indication that the metamorphosis that is required of Sinn Fein-IRA is beginning". His party has insisted prisoner releases and Sinn Fein's participation in government be linked to progressive IRA disarmament.

Wilson, an influential supporter of the peace process who is serving a 24-year sentence for terrorist offences, said Sinn Fein had to be treated as an equal in the new assembly. Other key republican requirements were prisoner releases, effective cross-border bodies, police reform and equality.

Schemes devised by the international disarmament commission make provision for paramilitary groups to destroy their weapons under independent supervision.

Mr Trimble called on the republican movement to prove its commitment to the democratic process by fully co-operating with the disarmament commission, dismantling its paramilitary structures, ending punishment beatings and targeting, and revealing the whereabouts of the "disappeared".

A senior Sinn Fein official claimed Wilson was expressing a "personal view" but one no different from Sinn Fein's. "If it [decommissioning] is going to happen, that's the way it will have to happen. Whether it does or not is entirely a matter for those groups that have weapons."

BUSINESS IN IRISH FOR SINN FEIN

Sinn Fein intends to conduct business in Irish in Northern Ireland's new assembly even though some of its own leaders barely speak the language. A spokesman said the party planned to use the language "as much as possible, whether in correspondence, discussions or debates" and saw no reason why translation facilities could not be provided when Sinn Fein representatives chose to speak from the floor in Irish. Asked whether Gerry Adams was sufficiently fluent to debate in Irish he laughed and replied: "He has good days and bad days". An Ulster Unionist Party spokesman called the plan "bizarre" and warned it would encounter serious opposition from UUP representatives.

Meacher red-faced over green exposé

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE green credentials of Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, were under attack yesterday after he travelled by chartered helicopter and two chauffeur-driven cars to a conference on environmental waste. His embarrassment deepened when it was disclosed that only one hour before his journey he had led 100 MPs on a mass cycle ride to Parliament to promote eco-friendly transport as part of National Bike Day.

After posing for photographs and giving interviews to encourage commuters to abandon the car, the minister was whisked by limousine to a helicopter pad. He was flown 180 miles to Paignton in Devon for the centenary conference of the Institute of Waste Management where he was the guest speaker.

A car was on standby at the seaside resort to take the minister half a mile to the conference centre. Only 60 minutes later he was back in the helicopter.

The ministerial car was waiting at the heliport in Battersea, South London, to take him back to the House of Commons for his appointment at the dispatch box. For the next hour Mr Meacher extolled the virtues of conservation and environmentally friendly travel and lauded the virtues of National Bike Day. Not a word was mentioned of his helicopter trip.

Nick Hawkins, the Tory MP for Surrey Heath, said: "It seems strange that Mr Meacher used the least environmentally friendly form of transport for a conference on waste." Eric Pickles, the MP for Brentwood and Ongar, said: "It was a very green gesture — Mr Meacher was naive if he thought we would not find out about the helicopter."

Peanuts

Continued from page 1

mittee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment.

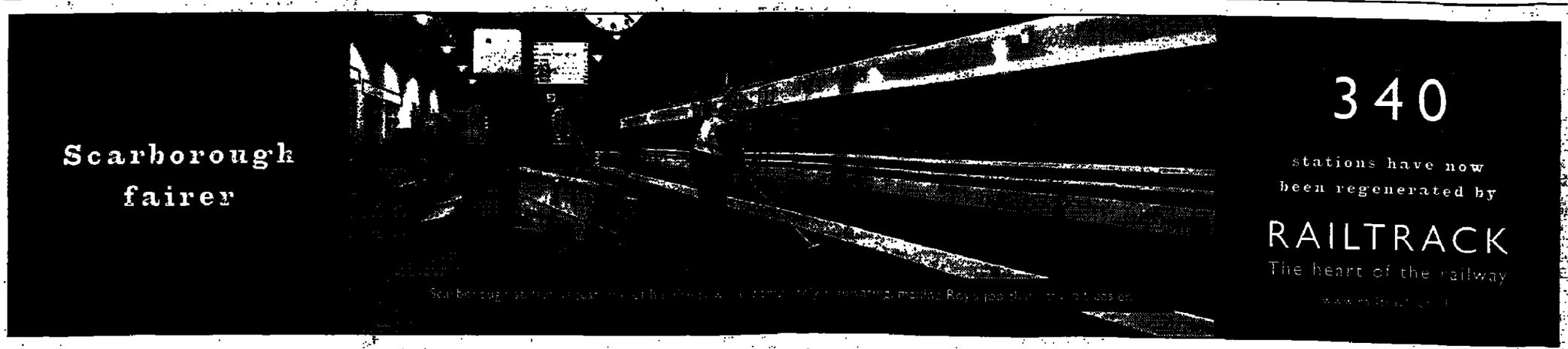
Hubert Woods, its chairman, said that the committee had studied evidence and found signs that early exposure to peanuts was an important factor in the sensitisation *of an individual in developing* an allergy to peanuts.

Jackie Douthwaite, of the Food Manufacturers Association, said members welcomed the clarification. "We encourage manufacturers to label all products even if they are not required to do so by law."

☐ A spokeswoman for London Zoo said last night they fed monkeys peanuts but had no plans to discontinue the practice to infants or *pregnant* monkeys in the light of the new research on humans.

"I have talked to our vet. We have never had a peanut allergy problem in our monkeys. We are not going to stop feeding them peanuts."

She said comparing humans with monkeys was probably unsound.



Soprano, 12, breaks record with Sony deal

Cardiff chorister signs up with world's biggest record label, reports Simon de Bruxelles

A WELSH girl aged 12 is being groomed for international stardom after becoming the youngest classical performer to sign with Sony, the world's largest record company.

Charlotte Church was given a five-album deal and an advance of about £100,000 after being spotted during a talent competition she had not even entered. Charlotte sang just three lines as she introduced her aunt, a cabaret singer, during the televised contest hosted by Jonathan Ross.

After the recording, it was not the aunt or the other contestants everyone was talking about. The theatrical agent Jan Kennedy, who happened to be in the audience, made a beeline for Charlotte's parents.

Within days the soprano chorister had an agent and a manager and was booked to perform in shows at the Albert Hall and the London Palladium. Since then she has performed on the same stage as Shirley Bassey, who was born not far from Charlotte's Cardiff home, and sung a Welsh folk song in an American TV mini-series called *Merlin*.

Charlotte, whose ability won her a scholarship to the Cathedral School in Cardiff, now has a glittering future predicted. But the only child is determined to keep her feet on the ground. "I'm a realist," she said yesterday. "I won't get too excited until it actually happens.

"I am really looking forward to performing and recording and appearing on television." Her role models are Maria Callas and Dame Joan Sutherland.

Her mother Marie said: "It has all happened so quickly it is hard to take it in. We thought long and hard and talked it over with Charlotte and in the end we decided she should go for it.

"Sony are very conscious of her age and are putting very little pressure on her at this stage. She is due to record her first album in August with the Welsh National Orchestra.

"We have not pushed her: everything that's happened has been because Charlotte wanted it to. We know there are pitfalls ahead but Charlotte is a very sensible girl for her age."

Mrs Church, 32, is determined that Charlotte will continue her education and do as much of her recording and performing as possible during school holidays. But the mother accepts that if Charlotte is as successful as Sony and her manager predict, she may have to give up her job as a local government housing official.

She said: "If that's the way things work out, I would act as a full-time chaperone. I have no intention of letting Charlotte out of my sight for one minute until she is 18 years old."

Her father, James Church, 33, who installs burglar alarms, said: "We first realised just how good she was when she entered a karaoke contest about three years ago. She ended up beating some professional singers and we thought, 'Here's something special.'"

Charlotte's manager, Jonathan Shalit, said yesterday: "I think she is Dame Kiri Te Kanawa aged 12. There is no other singer of her age in the world who can touch her. The amazing thing is the maturity of her voice. If you close your eyes you don't hear a young girl singing."

Charlotte, whose voice coach is Louise Ryan, helped to choose the songs she will record on her first CD, which is due for release early next year. They include Caccini's *Ave Maria*, *Jerusalem* and *Danny Boy*. She intends to wait until she is a little older before tackling the great opera arias.

Sony was one of several record companies that wooed Charlotte. Chris Black, head of Sony UK's classical division, said: "We are not going to be marketing her as a great 12-year-old singer but as a great singer, full stop."



Ross: Charlotte was spotted on his show

PHILIP REES



Charlotte Church, who says she is determined to keep her feet on the ground

Foster father 'knew he would be a suspect'

BY JOANNA BALE

THE foster father of murder victim Billie-Jo Jenkins confessed to detectives that he knew he would be considered a suspect in her murder, a court was told yesterday.

Sion Jenkins, a deputy headmaster, was first arrested nine days after the 13-year-old was found bludgeoned on the patio of their home in Hastings, East Sussex. Police called at the home of a friend where he and his family had been staying since the murder as Mr Jenkins lay sleeping in an upstairs bedroom.

Lewes Crown Court was told that he said nothing when he came downstairs and was told he was being arrested on suspicion of the murder. Charles Kemp, the prosecution barrister, and Detective Sergeant Ann Capon took the parts of Mr Jenkins and detectives as they read transcripts of the first 90 minute interview.

After being cautioned by detectives at Hastings police station, he told them: "I am clearly upset but I recognise that I need to be here. I recognise that you need to go through this. I recognise that I would be considered suspect."

Mr Jenkins added: "After the event (the murder) I never considered for a moment that I would be a suspect. Some days after the event I realised that I would be a suspect so although I am upset about being here, I am not surprised. I made a statement and recognise that your officers had been waiting for that statement. I want to provide you with whatever information you need."

Mr Jenkins then went through the events of the Saturday when Billie-Jo was murdered. He repeated what he had said in a witness statement he had made three days earlier when he talked of the day's events.

He recalled an incident in the morning when his social worker wife Lois told him that she had refused to let Billie-Jo meet a friend and she believed the foster child had called her a "bitch" under her breath.

Mr Jenkins claimed in the interview that after picking Lottie up from a clarinet lesson he left Billie-Jo painting the patio doors while he went with his two elder natural daughters to buy white spirit from a local DIY store. The prosecution claims it was just before he left for the store that he attacked Billie-Jo.

Mr Jenkins, 40, denies murdering Billie-Jo on February 15 last year. The trial continues.

Scientist solves a ticklish question

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A QUESTION that has puzzled thinkers down the ages has finally been resolved by a London research student. Why isn't tickling yourself as much fun as being tickled by somebody else?

Sarah-Jayne Blackmore used a tickling machine, and found that knowing what is about to happen takes all the fun out of tickling, because the brain warns that a tickle is coming. The discovery could help the understanding of schizophrenia. Her supervisor at the Wellcome Department of Cognitive Neurology at the Institute of Neurology in London, Professor Chris Frith, believes schizophrenics cannot distinguish between self-produced and externally-produced events.

The tickling is done by a machine consisting of a plastic box with a rod coming out of it with a foam pad mounted on the end. The pad can be moved about by operating a lever.

Three volunteers tickled themselves on the palm of a hand with the pad by moving the lever, and were also tickled by one of the researchers using the same machine. Brain scans supported their response that the ticklish sensation was less when self-administered, the *New Scientist* reports.

SAS man who turned to God is found dead

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

AN SAS soldier who became a Church of England clergyman and an army padre has been found dead in a car in a garage in Hampshire, police said yesterday.

The Rev Frank Collins, 41, who took part in the storming of the Iranian Embassy and was married with four children, was found early on Tuesday morning at a house in Stockbridge, near Andover.

After the apparent suicide, friends described him as a man who would do anything to help others, and that few had realised that he might need help himself.

Last year Mr Collins wrote a bestselling book, *Baptism of Fire*, about his adventures with the regiment and how he discovered God while training special service troops in the United States.

Mr Collins, 41, joined the SAS in 1974. He was the youngest member of the regiment to take part in the storming of the Iranian Embassy in 1980 and was the first to enter the building.

After his conversion to Christianity, Mr Collins left the SAS to work in private security. His clients included Mohamed Al Fayed and Sir Ralph Halpern.

He was accepted for ordination training and spent three years at Oak Hill theological college. In 1992, he became curate of St Peter with St Owen and St James Church in Hereford. He then signed up again, but this time as a padre, first with the Territorial Army wing of the SAS and then The Parachute Regiment.

He became known as "Padre Two Zero" by his SAS colleague Andy McNab, author of *Bravo Two Zero*. After leaving the Army last year, he did not have a regular job. But from his home in Hereford, he travelled promoting his book and had another planned.

His agent, Mark Lucas, said he was shocked by the death: "We are all stumbling around trying to find a reason. He was a great giver. But no one knows how his newly nomadic existence was affecting him."



Collins: he stormed the Iranian Embassy

American film star is Thomas the Yank engine

BY ROBIN YOUNG

IT IS not true that the new voice of Thomas the Tank Engine last February provoked the headline: "Hell-raising star's nude drug frenzy." No, that was his brother.

Alec Baldwin, the husband of Kim Basinger and star of *The Edge* and *The Hunt for Red October*, is to narrate 26 new Thomas stories. Although plainly lagging behind his nudely rampaging brother, Daniel, in the Hollywood hell-raising stakes, he did inspire the headline "Actor Alec Baldwin arrested at his home for punching a photographer".

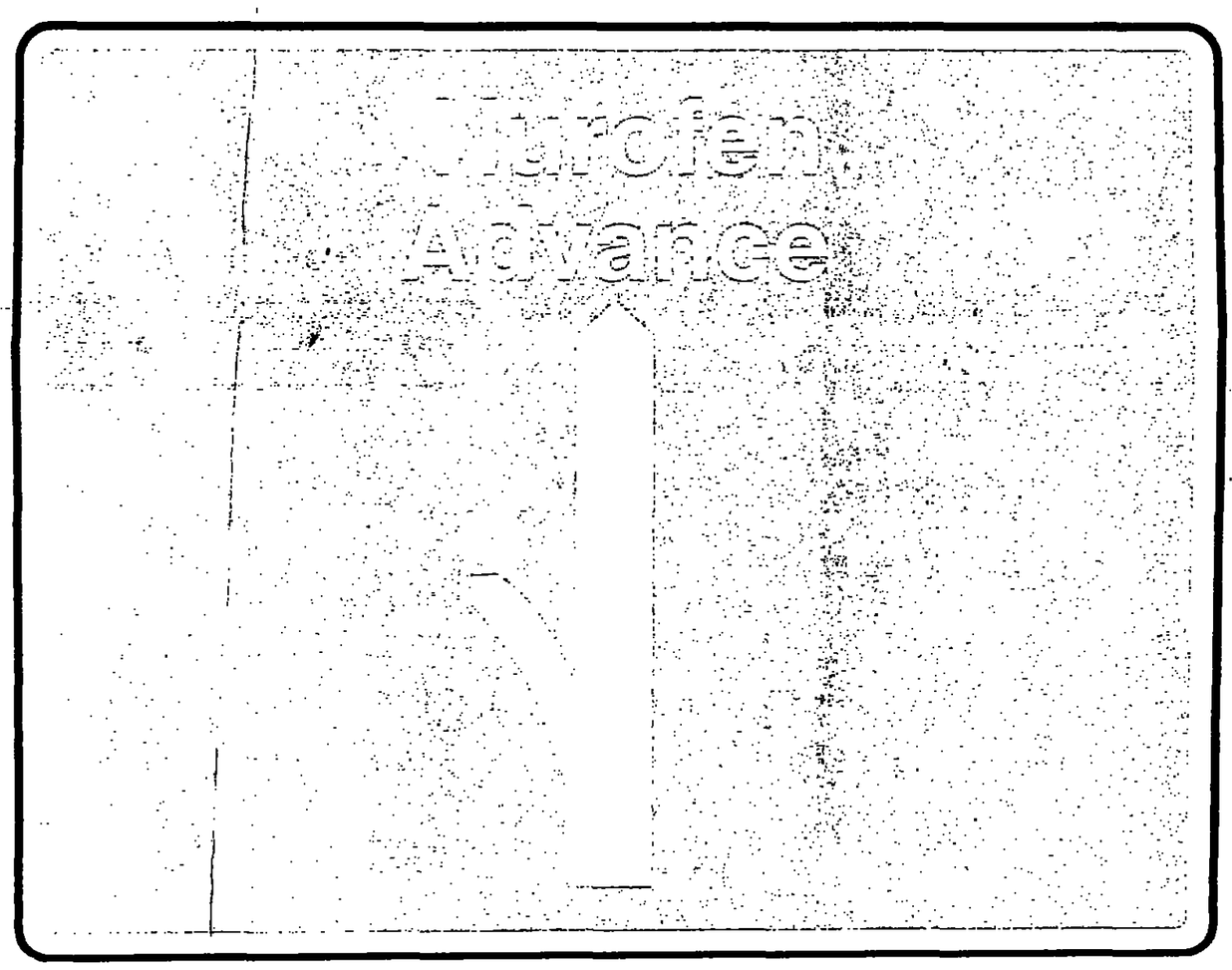
This is not quite the reference, perhaps, that would have commended Mr Baldwin to the late Rev Wilbert Awdry, Thomas the Tank Engine's creator. Mr Awdry invented Thomas to amuse his son when he was suffering measles in 1945, and the books have since sold in millions around the world.

Baldwin, who was taken to court over his nose-breaking assault on a veteran *paparazzo*, Alan Zanger, has hitherto been known for a nice line in psychopaths, but now he has been chosen to follow in the tracks of such Thomas voices as Ringo Starr and Michael Angelis. Shepperton Studios again provides the marshalling yard for the programmes, after a four-year stoppage. "Alec Baldwin is a terrific actor with a wonderful story-telling voice, sure to capture the heart of Thomas fans," claims Britt Allcroft, who produces the animated shows.

For the actor who is said to have been habitually late on set, to have smashed his employers' mobile phones, and to have developed a habit of throwing director's chairs around, a breather in the railway sidings could foreshadow a bid for the Fat Controller's job.



Baldwin: speaking up for Awdry's Thomas



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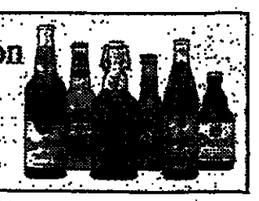
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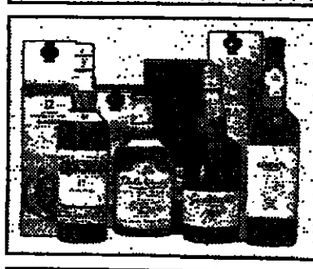
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Christie in tears over drug-taking allegation

Athlete sues over claim by John McVicar, writes **Deborah Collcutt**

THE Olympic gold medallist Linford Christie broke down and wept at the High Court yesterday as he began a libel action over claims by the author John McVicar that he had cheated his way to the top by using performance-enhancing drugs.

Christie, the 1992 Olympic 100m champion, fell silent and then started weeping five minutes after he went into the witness box. Taking deep breaths, he struggled to tell Mr Justice Popplewell and a jury the reason behind his emotion. "I sit here and what am I guilty of? I do my best to make people feel good about themselves. For many years, nobody in Britain did anything," he said.

Christie, 38, emphatically denied ever taking drugs. "I worked so hard ... I trained hard ... I worked my arse off. To sit here and people accuse me of cheating ... I just get so emotional about my athletics," he told the court.

He is suing Mr McVicar over an article headlined "How did Linford get this good?", that appeared in the now-defunct satirical magazine *Spiked* in September 1995. The athlete told the court that he had taken part in several anti-drugs campaigns and had never had any contact with illegal substances. "If I said to you I didn't think some people in athletics used drugs, I would be lying. Some of them do. I don't know who. I know that I don't."

Patrick Moloney, for Christie, told the jury that it would be fair to describe the athlete as Britain's greatest sprinter and one of the best in the world. The "very serious, untrue and damaging" allegation in *Spiked* was the most serious anyone could make about a professional sportsman, Mr Moloney told the court.

"Mr Christie has devoted his whole adult life to his sport and it has become his profession, his business and his life," Mr Moloney said, outlining the athlete's career, which culminated in his winning the Olympic title the world championship in the same discipline in 1993, both of which meant that, for a time, he was the fastest man in the world.

In the first issue of the fortnightly publication, Mr McVicar accused the athlete of achieving his success by using banned performance-enhancing drugs and by taking pills and drugs to improve his physique and performance.

"If that were true, his whole life and his whole career would be a sham," Mr Moloney said. "All the honours he has achieved would be worth nothing, his career would be a nothing, pointless and dishonest."

Christie, of Twickenham, southwest London, is also suing *Spiked*'s printers, Wiltshire (Bristol) Ltd, and distributors Johnsons News Ltd and W.H. Smith Ltd.

In the article, Mr McVicar, who denies writing anything untrue, claimed that: "On the basis of circumstantial evidence, many believe but cannot prove that Christie has been taking performance-enhancing drugs." He wrote that Christie had outwitted drugs testers for years.

"His remarkable physique, in regard to both its bulk and definition, is consistent with the use of anabolic steroids," he wrote, although he conceded "there is no bloody hypodermic needle, no direct evidence that points the finger at Christie." The article concluded that everything pointed to Christie having taken steroids, because he triumphed consistently at an age when he should have been in decline.

Mr Moloney said that Christie had been tested more than 100 times and had "nearly tested positive" only once, at the 1988 Olympics, when a tiny quantity of a substance that could have been derived from the legal health supplement ginseng was detected. He was subsequently cleared.

The case continues.



> I worked so hard ... To sit here and people accuse me of cheating ... I just get so emotional about my athletics

£25,000 for family of shackled prisoner

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE family of a man shackled to his bed for 11 days as he lay dying of cancer has been offered £25,000 compensation to settle a claim against the Prison Service.

The sum is the highest award in respect of a prisoner who was shackled under the policy, which the previous Home Secretary was forced to change after it was made public. Last week a prisoner who was shackled while in labour received compensation of £20,000.

Geoffrey Thomas, 25, had not been convicted of an offence when he was shackled. He had been remanded in custody in Cardiff prison to await committal to Cardiff Crown Court on burglary charges.

One month after his remand in October 1996, he complained of severe back and abdominal pain and was told by the prison doctor that nothing was wrong. Later that month he complained of being "racked with pain" and was prescribed painkillers. On December 2 his solicitors wrote to the prison governer expressing concern and later that month, on December 23, he was admitted to the University Hospital of Wales.

His family found him shackled to the bed with prison officers standing guard.

Four days later cancer was diagnosed. He was transferred on January 1 to a hospice where he died after two days. The shackles were removed only three hours before he died.

His solicitor, Stephanie Forman, a medical negligence specialist at Alexander Harris, solicitors in Altrincham, said: "It was clear to all those who were caring for him that he could no longer stand unaided and there was no question of him being in a position to escape."

The Home Office indicated that it wished to settle the claim without any admission as to negligence.

LEIGH GREEN



Samantha Kemp, Damian Harkins and Sophie, 6, outside their wrecked home

Residents told to flee as building crumbles

BY DEBORAH COLLCUTT

RESIDENTS of a five-storey Victorian house in Hastings were evacuated minutes before they saw the back of it collapse like a pack of cards.

One couple, who had moved into the property only this week, were given a few hours by health and safety officers to grab their belongings and leave.

Emergency services were met with what they described as scenes of devastation. All 25 residents and their pets escaped uninjured. Paramedics treated some elderly residents for shock, but none needed hospital treatment.

Firefighters spent nearly three hours shoring up the building while workmen sealed gas and water leaks. Damage is estimated to run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Keith Farnfield, a passer-by who helped residents to safety, said: "It all happened very fast. It was fine at first but an hour later there were cracks all over the place and rubble began falling. I saw the floor sloping away and daylight in the corner of a sitting room."

Samantha Kemp, who moved into the building last week with her boyfriend and their six-year-old daughter, Sophie, said: "We all thought it was a wind-up when we were told to leave. Nobody was panicking because we thought nothing was going to happen. It was only when we heard the cracking that we realised it was serious."

A surveyor from Hastings Borough Council had condemned the property after large cracks began appearing in the walls and notified the health and safety department to evacuate residents. The council began an investigation into the incident yesterday and is believed to be considering taking action against the managing agents in charge of the property after warning them about structural damage last month.



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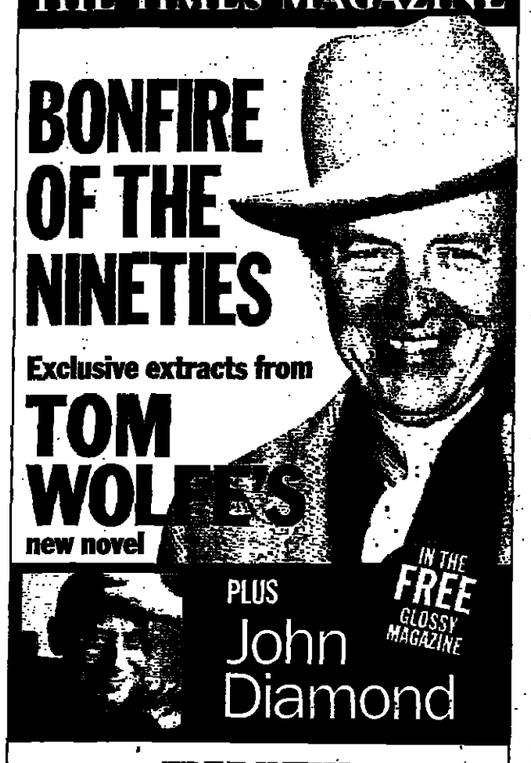
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Barristers fight calls to doctor their bills

TOP QCs clashed yesterday over whether they should be paid a maximum of £200,000 a year from legal aid to give them a take-home pay comparable to senior hospital consultants.

Addressing an unprecedented hearing by the Law Lords into the bills of four "silks", Sydney Kentridge, QC, briefed by the Bar Council to argue its case, ridiculed any notion of comparison with doctors. He dismissed as "verging on the absurd" the idea that a taxing master — who approves a barrister's bill — should be guided by considerations of what a lawyer's yearly income ought to be.

"The idea that he should not only do that, but also inform himself what surgeons earn goes over the line of absurdity," he said. Comparisons were difficult because hospital doctors were employed, had paid leave, pensions, sick pay and security of tenure while barristers were self-employed and had to pay all their own overheads.

The question of what a barrister should earn from legal aid was one for the Lord Chancellor, the Treasury, and perhaps in due course for Parliament. It might be a matter for a committee of inquiry. But he questioned whether it was even a matter for the House of Lords, which had neither the material to make such judgments nor the pool of experience enjoyed by taxing masters.

QCs have clashed over new plans to match legal aid earnings to those of surgeons, writes **Frances Gibb**

"What should the ratio be for the payment out of public funds for a solicitor, an advocate, a surgeon, a general practitioner, a hospital nurse, a policeman, or even an opera singer, who is largely paid out of public funds?" he added. "You can't solve the problems by saying a taxing master should be a bit stricter than he has been in the past."

Lawrence Collins QC, a solicitor advocate speaking on behalf of the solicitors' professional body, the Law Society, said it was the society's view that guidelines were needed on the fees charged. Queen's Counsel should receive a take-home pay of about £112,000 a year — the same as a leading NHS consultant.

Working 200 days a year, and "grossed up" to take account of all the expenses barristers had to pay out of their fees, they should earn about £200,000 a year. "That would give a generous and reasonable remuneration."

He said barristers would still be free to earn extra cash doing privately-funded work, but legal aid fees should reflect the fact that lawyers receiving it were "fulfilling partly a public function".

Mr Kentridge was one of a line-up of eight barristers and solicitors who assembled yesterday before the law lords inquiring into how QCs' fees are assessed and whether guidelines are needed.

He challenged figures produced by the Lord Chancellor's Department which purported to show that barristers were regularly claiming far larger sums in legal aid fees than were allowed. In 1995/96, they are said to have put in for a total of £286.7 million fees and been allowed only £127.2 million.

Mr Kentridge said the figures appeared flawed and were "skewed" by one or two very high cases. It would be dangerous, he said, to draw conclusions from such "raw figures".

The inquiry was prompted was prompted by the clerk of the Parliaments, Michael Davies, a senior official in charge of the taxing of bills, who was so concerned about the bills submitted by four QCs that he asked the law lords to give guidance.

But his request also coincides with concern among the law lords and senior judges themselves over what they said yesteday appeared to be a "ratcheting up" of legal aid fees.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson, chairing the hearing, said evidence had been submitted that there had been "enormous growth" in legal aid fees, which were rising at a rate "miles above inflation". He said it appeared the whole system of fixing fees might need to be reformed.

Mr Kentridge said the fees in the particular cases were "within the generous ambit within which reasonable disagreement is possible". He said fees were decided on the basis of "reasonable remuneration" which was decided by the taxing masters looking at other cases and at the circumstances of the case before them. The inquiry was looking only at a tiny proportion of legal aid work — appeals to the House of Lords. Some 80 per cent of criminal court work was now covered by a scheme of fixed or graduated fees, put forward by the Bar itself.

Lord Browne-Wilkinson said: "If I'm right in saying there has been concern about very large fees paid in particular types of criminal cases, which fees have been paid on the basis of being reasonable remuneration, but there's a substantial body of society which says this looks very large to me - then is that a very good system by which we should be regulating costs?"

The hearing continues.

Law, page 35

ANDRÉ CAMARA



Michael Mansfield: fees for one case cut by £10,000

QCs' legal aid bills reduced

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE legal aid bills of four QCs and their juniors were released yesterday with details of how they were cut by 45 to 65 per cent by a House of Lords senior official responsible for approving the bills.

The bills, which gave rise to yesterday's unprecedented inquiry by five law lords, were all submitted for work done for appeals in the House of Lords in murder cases.

Michael Mansfield, QC, the barrister currently appearing in the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, had his fees cut from £22,000 to £12,300 in the appeal by Gary Mills and Tony Poole against their conviction for the murder of Hensley Wiltshire in 1989.

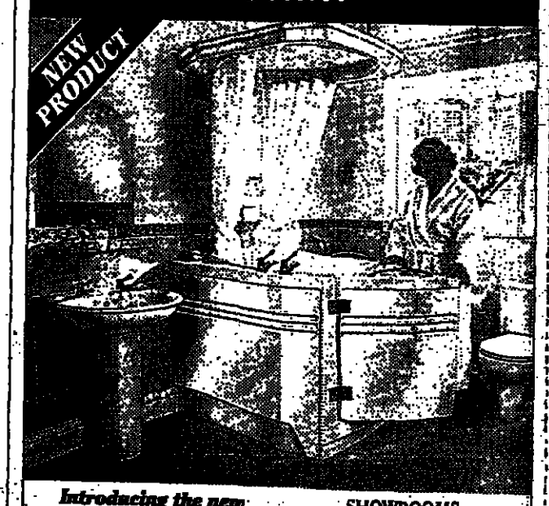
Christopher Sallon, QC, claimed £34,600 for his work in freeing Philip English, jailed for life for the murder of the police sergeant Bill Forth in a case which gave rise to new law on joint enterprise. His bill was cut to £21,600.

In the third case, Patrick Fenlon, QC, submitted a bill for £27,000 that was cut to £16,200 and his junior, Benjamin Strachan, had a bill of nearly £36,000 reduced to £15,823 in the case of R v Powell and another.

In the fourth case, the taxation, or approval of bills, has not yet taken place. Richard Henriques, QC, has submitted a bill £28,500 and Ian McMeekin a bill of £18,750 (the case of R v Brown).

The cases were heard together: R v Powell and another was heard with R v English over three days in February 1997, and R v Mills and Poole was heard with R v Brown over 2½ days in April.

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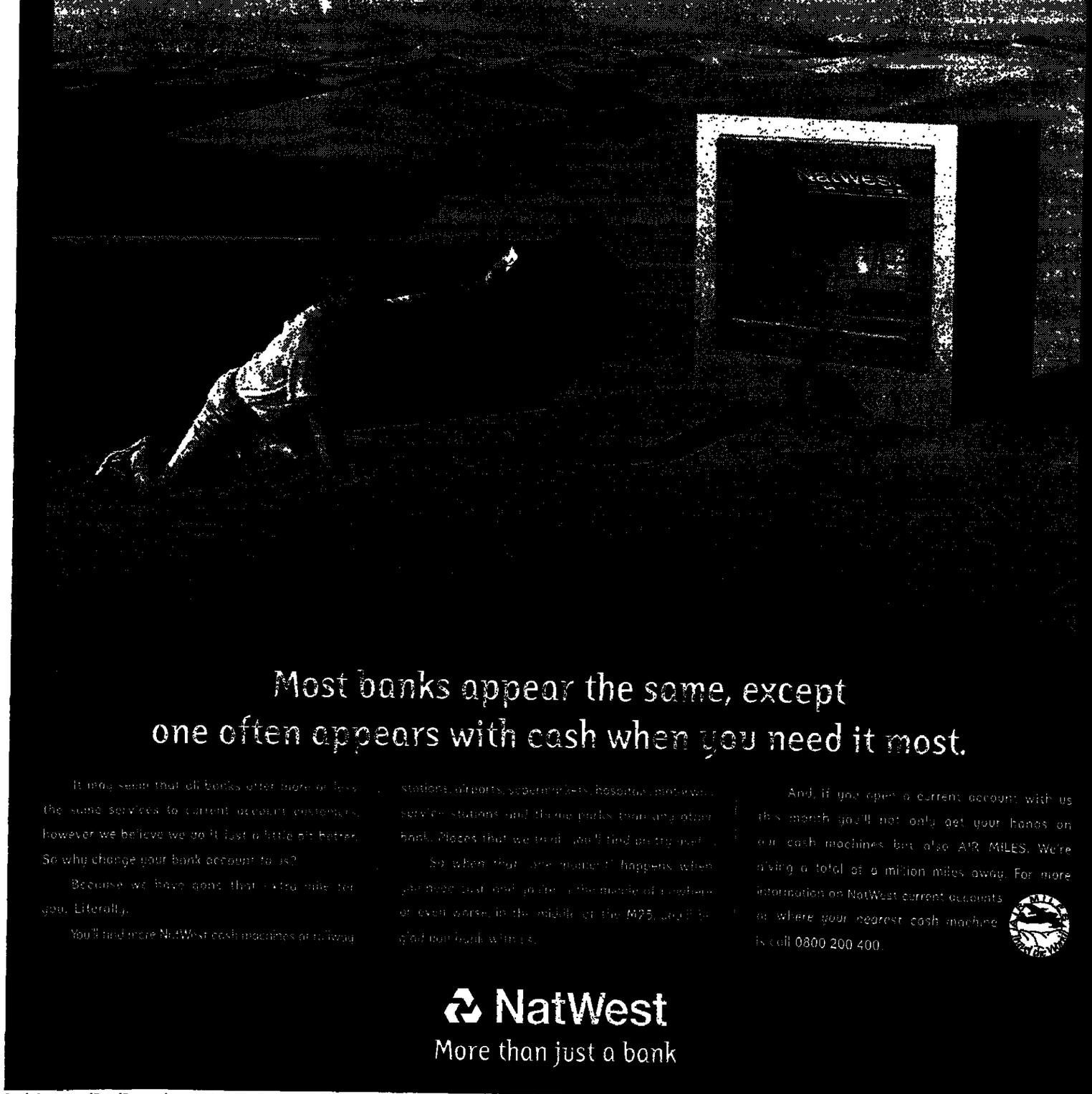
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Blair calls for jailed fans to be sacked

Government wants companies and public services to punish convicted hooligans, reports **Philip Webster**

TONY BLAIR called on employers yesterday to discipline or sack workers convicted of hooliganism at the World Cup.

In an attempt to deter violent fans already in France or troublemakers thinking of travelling there, the Prime Minister demanded "strong action" by companies and the public services against those found guilty. Mr Blair made particular mention of members of the Armed Forces, and it became clear later that any serviceman found guilty of hooliganism faces certain dismissal. Existing disciplinary procedures provide for dismissal in such cases.

Mr Blair decided to deliver his call to employers after it emerged that many of those arrested in France were in jobs, some of them relatively well-paid, and that some of them worked in the public services, including postmen and firemen.

Last night, some of the men's employers confirmed that they could be sacked when they returned.

Viewers who see people they know misbehaving on television are being invited to inform on them. Mr Straw urged people last night to call the Government's "hooligan hotline". Government sources said that the line (0800 515495) had taken some 80 calls that had been of assistance to police.

Government officials said that Mr Blair was not referring to changes in the law, but was pointing out that most companies and certainly the public sector had disciplinary procedures that could be invoked against those convicted of serious offences. "The Prime Minister is giving a strong signal about a set of incidents that have damaged the country's reputation," one said.

Christopher Anderson, 26, a Liverpool fan jailed for three months for setting fire to a car in the wave of violence the night before the Tunisia match, works for Parcelforce in Netherton, near Bootle.

His friend Graham Whitby, 26, an Everton supporter, also jailed for three months in the same incident on Sunday night, works at Liverpool's Copperas Hill sorting office.

Paul Grover, 21, a postman from Hanworth, West London, was jailed for two months and banned from returning to France for two years after the court was told that he was involved in violence outside the Stade Vélodrome and Marseilles railway station.

A Post Office spokesman said last night: "Like the rest of the nation, the Post Office is appalled at the hooliganism and violence that have occurred in France. We are treating very seriously reports about some postal workers being involved and have been in touch with their legal representatives in France to establish full information from the authorities.

"If the media reports [of the convictions] are correct, we shall certainly consider taking disciplinary action that can result in dismissal."

The others already convicted are Mark Thompson, 31, a railway worker from Nuneaton, Warwickshire, who was jailed for four months for throwing bottles at police; Liam Yeomans, 26, a floor layer from Leicestershire, also jailed for four months for throwing bottles; and James Shayler, 32, a roofer from Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, who was jailed for throwing the first bottle. Their futures are all unclear.

Philip Bryan, 37, an RAF fireman based at Brüggen in Germany, was remanded in custody until July 17 accused of assaulting a policemen and smashing windows after he was filmed in the street of Marseilles during disturbances, and being led away by police.

The Ministry of Defence said there would be no decision on the fate of the senior aircraftsman, who has served in the Falklands, Belize and Kuwait, until after the hearing.

In the Commons Mr Blair condemned the English hooligans as a "mindless minority who do nothing but bring disgrace on themselves and on the name of our country." He congratulated the Scotland fans on the way they had behaved and agreed with a Labour MP that the vast majority of England fans had behaved extremely well.

He promised to consider carefully Conservative amendments to the Crime and Disorder Bill placing restrictions on thugs travelling to overseas matches and making them pay compensation for the damage they caused.

Letters, page 25



"So you were doing charity work while your identical twin was in Marseilles"

SIMON WALKER



Staff at The Frog and Rosbif pub in Toulouse expect to be busy on Monday

Heavies brought in to keep trouble away

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN TOULOUSE

THE public address system at the village of stalls alongside the Garonne where artists, musicians and purveyors of every delicacy in Languedoc are displaying their wares, informs those idling under the avenue of shady trees that "Toulouse welcomes visitors to watch all the World Cup matches on the big screen". All visitors except England fans, that is.

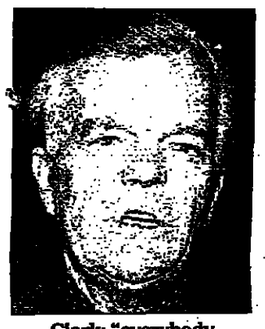
The office of the city's mayor, Dominique Baudis, said last night that the two big screens, one on the riverside and another at the Palais de Sport, on which all other matches have been watched by people from many countries, will not show England's game against Romania on Monday. The decision follows the pitched battle that ensued between English and Tunisians when their game in Marseilles was shown on a giant screen on the town's beach.

Owners of bars and restaurants which will be showing the match on television are also determined to keep the English away, using hired muscle if necessary. "We will have a couple of big men on the door," said Pierre Framcoual of the Music Hall Cafe, a popular sports bar on the Place du Capitole. "They will decide who comes in and who doesn't."

The bar is one of many around the beautiful, wide open place, which is expected to be a focal point for fans. Owners, who must close at 11pm for the next five nights, are worried both by security and the loss of revenue that shutting early incurs in a society where people eat and drink late. "Half of our day's business is done between 10pm and 1pm and now we will lose thousands," said Mr Framcoual.

He backs the ban on serving after 11pm, but others were less keen. "We would have liked to have taken the risk and stayed open. It would have been an ideal time to make cash," said John Foy, 48, owner of the British pub, The Frog and Rosbif.

Clark defends hooligans 'targeted for being English'



Clark: "everybody is out to get them"

BY ALAN HAMILTON

ALAN CLARK, regarded by a number of women in his past as a hooligan of the boudoir, yesterday sprang to the defence of the English football hooligans of Marseilles. Our brave fans, he claimed, had been singled out by the French police and other supporters simply for being English.

The Conservative MP for Kensington and Chelsea told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "The level of prejudice which exists against English people is just so widespread that they haven't got a chance." Football matches had become the present-day equivalent of medieval tournaments, and it was perfectly natural that some fans would become obstreperous. But, Mr Clark said, it was "a compliment to the English martial spirit" that other groups should seek them out for a fight.

"But they really haven't got a chance, these guys. Everybody is out to get them. Nobody speaks up for them. Everybody from the Archbishop of Canterbury sideways kind of relates them to the Serbian military police."

Mr Clark, who was described in a High Court case last year as a man who "loves to be famous and loves to be naughty", accused politicians and the media of concentrating on the violence of the English fans while ignoring the fact that they were frequently provoked.

"You cannot expect teams of supporters to stand by and be sneered at and spat at and have missiles thrown at them. You are going to get some kind of exchange."

Mr Clark went on: "If you are English you are targeted, and if you are English and tough-looking and wearing an English flag — and why shouldn't you — you will find that not only the ordinary police target you, but there are particular groups of thugs who are set up."

Mr Clark said that a group of Argentinian fans, known to be mafia enforcers, were on their way to France to make trouble with the English. The former minister told listeners that he did not attend football matches, nor had he been caught up in a football riot.

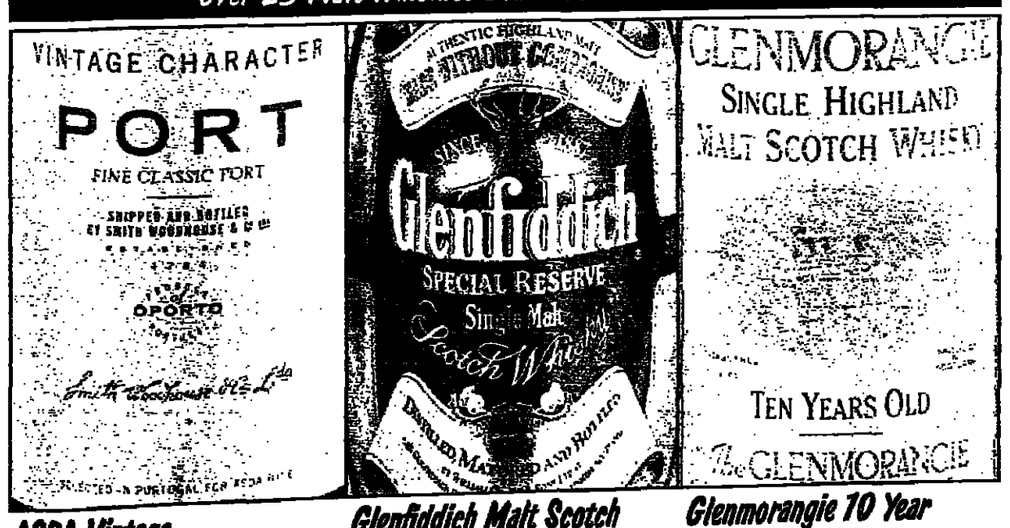
His own side was swift to distance itself from him yesterday. "Alan Clark's views are not those of the Conservative Party," a spokesman at Central Office retorted. Labour spokesmen called on William Hague to show his backbench maverick the yellow card before he became branded as an apologist for the hooliganism of Marseilles.

The Football Supporters' Association condemned his remarks. "This is the last sort of comment we need," Kevin Miles, the organisation's spokesman, speaking from Marseille, told Radio 5 Live. "To pander to the ideas of the small numbers who cloak themselves in nationalism or whatever else and deliberately seek out trouble is potentially very dangerous."

Last night Mr Clark remained unabashed, maintaining that any fan who had a bottle thrown at him was entitled to throw it back. "I don't know why you have all gone soft on this; it is just extraordinary."

Bryant's Eye, page 51

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Train fleet taken out of service after crash

GNER withdraws electric service after cracked carriage wheel causes derailment, writes Arthur Leathley

THOUSANDS of rail passengers faced severe delays yesterday after an entire fleet of high-speed trains was withdrawn from service on safety grounds.

Managers of Great North Eastern Railway ordered that 31 trains be taken out of service after the derailment of an express train travelling at 100mph on the East Coast main line in Bedfordshire. The decision to withdraw the trains forced GNER to use slower diesel trains, meaning that only one in five trains was in operation.

Nine passengers received minor injuries on Tuesday night when a rear carriage on the 1730 King's Cross to Edinburgh service left the track at Sandy, Bedfordshire. About 400 passengers were moved from the rest of the train, which came to a halt about 200 yards north of Sandy railway station. Managers were able to restart services by midday yesterday, but delays continued throughout the day, with widespread disruption caused at stations including Leeds, Newcastle, Edinburgh and York.

The accident, caused by a cracked carriage wheel, sparked fears that there could be a link with the high-speed derailment in Germany a fortnight ago, which was blamed on wheel failure. However, safety inspectors dismissed any link between the German accident and the latest derailment, insisting that there were many differences between the types of trains.

Urgent checks were carried out on 2,000 sets of wheels on the InterCity 225 trains, which have been in operation for seven years. Great North Eastern is the only rail company in Britain to use the electric 225 train and Mark 4 rolling stock involved in the derailment. The wheels and bogies were made by the Swiss manufacturer SIG.

A safety inquiry was started into how the cracked wheel remained undetected by routine maintenance checks. Railway inspectors also ordered that the wheels on the 225s should be checked every ten days, instead of 90, as an additional precaution. Manual and ultrasound checks are routinely carried out at four GNER depots. Trains run at up to 125mph on the route, the highest speed allowed on the network.

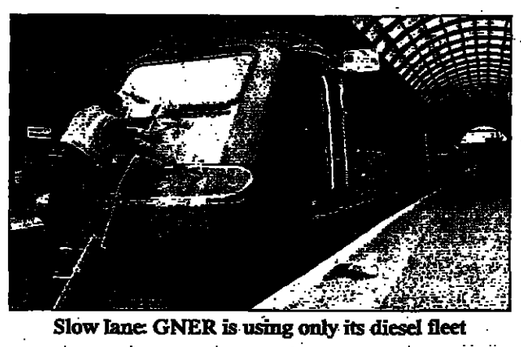
Christopher Garnett, chief executive of Great North Eastern, said: "Safety of our passengers is our number one priority. As a prudent, precautionary measure we have withdrawn all electric trains for immediate checks."

Great North Eastern usually operates 112 trains a day, carrying 30,000 people, but only 22 trains were being used with nine diesel locomotives. Other train operators helped to take on some of the passengers, and West Anglia Great Northern, which runs from London to East Anglia, extended a service to York.

The safety alert followed a move this week by the German authorities to begin replacing wheels on 59 of their express trains after a crash in which 100 people were killed. The Health and Safety Executive, which is investigating the Sandy derailment, said: "Comparisons between this derailment and the recent major railway accident in Germany should not be made at this stage, as the rolling stock involved is different."

It is rare for a derailment to be caused by a train fault. Of the 21 derailments caused to passenger trains in 1996-97, almost all resulted from driver error or track and signalling faults. Two Health and Safety Executive railway inspectors are investigating the Sandy incident, with the help of experts from the executive's Health and Safety Laboratory in Sheffield.

Vic Coleman, the executive's deputy chief inspector of railways, said: "The immediate cause of the accident appears to be a fractured wheel and we are concentrating investigations on a wheelset from the derailed carriage, although we cannot rule out other matters which may arise during the investigation. Our aim is to find out how this happened and to see if there are any consequences for the design, manufacture and inspection of wheels."



Slow lane: GNER is using only its diesel fleet

POPPERFOTO



Past track record: a wheeltapper checks train carriage wheels for cracks

Tappers who gave railways a ring of confidence

BY ROBIN YOUNG

IN DAYS gone by, train derailments were avoided by the attentions of wheeltappers, railwaymen equipped with long-handled hammers who ambled along the tracks taking a swing at every wheel they passed.

There were an estimated 27,000 wheeltappers at their peak. They were regarded with much suspicion and scorn by the travelling public because they seemed to pay so little attention to their supposedly inessential work.

In fact, railway experts acknowledge that wheeltappers saved thousands of lives. They did not need to study wheels closely as they passed along trains and carriages because the healthy ringing sound emitted by striking a wheel in good condition was totally different from the ominous clunk produced by one with a crack.

Wheeltappers started work in George Stephenson's days but did not survive the reduction in manning levels that took place in the 1980s as the nationalised railways prepared for privatisation. Their role had in any case been superseded by advances in technology years before.

It has now been taken over by ultrasonic equipment which is used to examine wheels at routine services, usually every 90 days.

By contrast, the wheeltappers, who were present at every junction and marshalling yard, were so numerous that the same wheel could sometimes be tapped up as many as 15 times in one day.

The honourable profession of wheeltapper came as close as possible to being immortalised in the Granada television show, *The Wheeltappers' and Shunters' Club*, featuring variety acts from northern clubland. It was the show that gave the magician Paul Daniel his debut, but by the time it became popular the wheeltappers themselves were on the point of doing their own vanishing trick.

Murray Hughes, editor of *Railway Gazette*, said yesterday: "I do not think wheeltapping was very skilled work, although the railway unions would certainly have ensured that it was fully demarcated.

"In theory, ultrasonic inspection should be much more thorough because it should show up changes in the metallurgic structure of the solid steel wheel due to stress or wear, well before actual fractures appear. I do not think wheeltappers could do that, however well-tuned their ears."

Germans confirm cause of disaster

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A BROKEN wheel definitely caused the train crash in Germany earlier this month in which 100 people died, a German government watchdog said yesterday.

The Federal Railways Office presented a detailed account to a parliamentary committee of how the part of the wheel that holds the train on the track fractured, causing Germany's worst rail disaster in half a century. Matthias Wissmann, the Transport Minister, promised that the Government would demand an inquiry into the causes of the accident, and bring anyone deemed responsible for events leading to the crash to account. Vandalism was ruled out.

Until the crash, in the northern town of Eschede on June 5, the InterCity Express trains had been in use without an accident for seven years. However, since the crash, the Federal Railways Office has three times forced the German railways to withdraw the 59 remaining first-generation trains, which were built in 1991.

The committee was told that, about 300 metres after it broke, the tyre unwound from the wheel and was forced up into the wheelset, where it jammed. This would explain the "tremendous rumbling" that survivors of the crash described. Despite this damage, the train sped along a further 5.5 kilometres until passing over a switch at Eschede station, some 200m from a bridge overpass. Parts of the broken wheel then hooked into the switch, derailing the wheel on the opposite rail, causing another switch 120m down the track to route the train sharply to the right.

Some of the cars slipped under the overpass, but, when one of the carriages slammed into the bridge, it collapsed and the remaining cars piled into each other.

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Woodward sued over 'wrongful death' of baby

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN BOSTON

THE parents of Matthew Eappen, who died at the hands of Louise Woodward, began civil proceedings against their former au pair yesterday, suing her for damages for the "wrongful death" of their eight-month-old son and seeking an injunction to prevent her from selling her story for profit.

At a hearing before Judge William Young of the US District Federal Court yesterday, Deborah and Sunil Eappen asked for £75,000 in compensatory damages for their son's death. Their suit called for unspecified punitive damages that could run to hundreds of thousands of dollars if the jury is sympathetic to their case.

The suit was filed on Tuesday, 78 minutes after the Supreme Court of Massachusetts upheld Miss Woodward's conviction for manslaughter and her "time served" sentence of 279 days, both imposed last November by Judge Hiller B. Zobel.

The Eappens have also asked the court to prohibit Miss Woodward from reimbursing ES Au Pair "or any of its affiliates, for expenses incurred in the legal defence in her case".

Miss Woodward will no longer be represented by Silverglate & Good, the Boston law firm that carried her case from the start of last February to its conclusion on Tuesday. She is now in the hands of Norman Zalkind, another Boston attorney, who has a practice in civil litigation and a reputation for incisiveness. His fees, believed to be about $350 an hour, will be paid for from Miss Woodward's defence fund, based in her home village of Elton, Cheshire.

Andrew Good, Miss Woodward's attorney, said yesterday that she had recovered her passport from the Middlesex County Superior Court, where it had been lodged after her last appeal was filed. Mr Good said: "Her passport had expired but we applied to the consulate for a document to travel. She now has a valid passport and is desperate to go home."

The civil suit has provoked comparisons with the O.J. Simpson case, where the football star was sued for damages after he was tried and acquitted of murder. Legal observers believe that the Eappens' suit would be much easier to win, because Miss Woodward has been convicted of the manslaughter of the boy.

A civil jury would not have to decide who caused the baby's death. Furthermore, the Eappens have much lighter burden of proof in the civil suit. They will need to show only that Miss Woodward was responsible for Matthew's death "by a preponderance of evidence". Crucially, her conviction will count as relevant evidence.

According to reports in the local press, the Eappens have brought their suit primarily to ensure that Miss Woodward does not profit from her experience. On Tuesday they announced the establishment of the Matthew Eappen Foundation, which will seek to raise the awareness of child abuse. Speaking to *The Boston Globe*, Mrs Eappen said: "We want to do all we can so that this never happens again. If there is any financial gain from this case, it should all go towarding teaching people about child abuse, about shaken baby syndrome."

Barry Scheck, who represented Miss Woodward at her trial, said: "From the moment that Judge Zobel reduced the conviction, there have been rumours Louise Woodward would sell her story. To my knowledge, that's not true."

The Eappens are convinced that Miss Woodward intends to profit from her experience of America's jails and judicial system. Attached to the suit is a lengthy affidavit, listing several British newspaper stories that have reported putative book deals. Most suggest that she intends — or has at some time intended — to sell her story to the *Daily Mail*, although the editor of that paper was quoted yesterday in the *Boston Herald* as saying: "We are not paying money to Louise Woodward for her story, or her parents or her agents."

The suit raises the question of whether any ruling could be enforced in Britain. According to Arthur von Mehren, the Story Professor of Law Emeritus at Harvard, British courts would be likely to enforce an order for damages, but not the injunction to stop Miss Woodward selling her story.

But Joe Jacob, a senior lecturer at the London School of Economics, said that an injuction issued in the United States could not be enforced in Britain. If broken it would serve as a contempt of US court, but the punishment would only be effective on return to the United States.

DAN CHUNG/REUTERS



Linda Johnson outside her house with four-month-old son, Todd. She took the blanket down after complaints

Welcome banners up along with defences

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

THE bakery in Elton was selling cakes bearing the computer-generated face of Louise Woodward yesterday, and children were putting up "Welcome Home" banners.

But the Cheshire village is a different place to the one that ushered in the television cameras at the start of the trial last October. Media crews are still in evidence, but there will be no champagne-popping scenes to film like the one in November after the sentence was reduced to "time-served". The jubiliation prompted revulsion on both sides of the Atlantic.

Every mention of the au pair is countered with a reassurance that Matthew Eappen, the child she was convicted of killing, has not been forgotten. Linda Johnson decorated her house with a blanket proclaiming "Welcome Home Louise". It was taken down after complaints that it was insensitive for Mrs Johnson to appear with it in photographs, holding her baby son. "Apparently it upset them because of Matthew Eappen. I hadn't even been thinking of that."

Record will mean a life of scrutiny

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HER conviction for manslaughter means that Louise Woodward now faces a life of close scrutiny by social services. Should she ever have children, social workers would certainly consider entering their names on the child protection register to ensure that they are not abused or harmed while in her care.

With a conviction for manslaughter of a child, known as a Schedule One offence under the Children Act, Miss Woodward will never be allowed to work as a registered childminder. Roy Taylor, of the Association of Directors of Social Services, said that any new mother known to have a conviction for a serious crime of violence would be immediately invited by social workers to attend a conference to discuss the baby's wellbeing. Police and other relevant agencies, such as probation or education services, would also be represented.

If the child were put on the register, the mother would receive regular visits from a social worker. She would be invited to attend parenting classes and support groups and a respite carer could be provided to allow her to take a break.

Mr Taylor added, however, that it was not a foregone conclusion that a woman in Miss Woodward's position would have her child placed on the register if it were born several years in the future. He said that, although she would certainly be barred by social services from registering as a childminder, there was nothing to stop her from working as a nanny, since there are no rules requiring the national registration of nannies.

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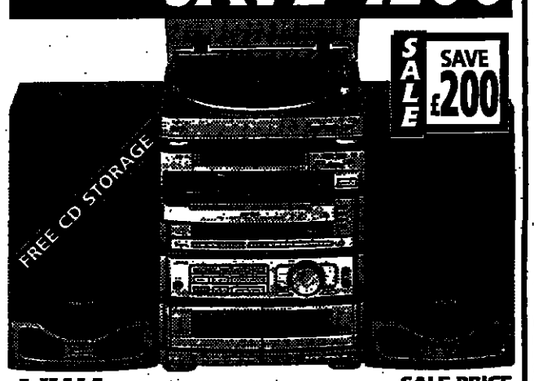
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AMSTRAD Portable CD System Top loading CD player. Model MCD35. Was £59.99. £10 SALE PRICE £49.99

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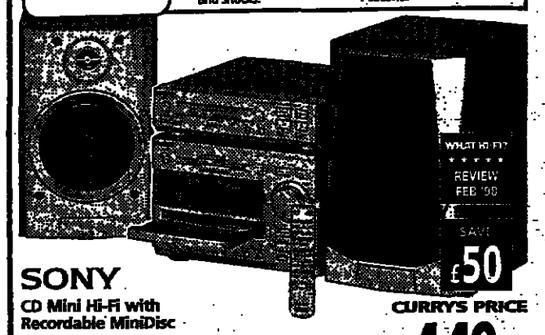
WHAT HI-FI? ★★★★★ REVIEW OCTOBER 1997 MARANTZ Amplifier ■ 50 watts output per channel. ■ Remote control. Model PM65SE. Was £229.99. £50 SALE PRICE £179.99

YAMAHA Cinema at Home Amplifier ■ 4 audio/3 video outputs. ■ 65 x 20 x 20 watts output. Model DSPA492. Was £249.99 £50 SALE PRICE £199.99

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SONY Portable Recordable MiniDisc Player Available in Blue or Silver. Model MZR25. CURRYS PRICE £299.99

SONY In-Car MiniDisc Tuner 6-second shock-resistant memory. Model MDX670 RDS. Was £299.99. Was £249.99. FREE INSTALLATION Ask for details £100 CURRYS PRICE £199.99

SHARP Recordable MiniDisc Player with CD ■ 3 CD changer. ■ One-touch synchro recording. Model MDR3. CURRYS PRICE £349.99

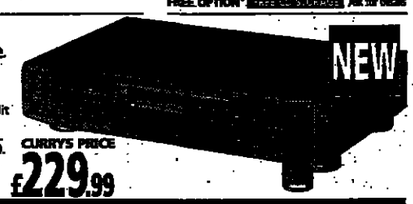
KENWOOD MiniDisc Player ■ Remote control. ■ Full MiniDisc edit functions. Model DM3090. Was £249.99. 6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* £20 SALE PRICE £229.99

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SONY Portable MiniDisc Player Available in Orange or Silver. Model MZE25. CURRYS PRICE £249.99

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ROADSTAR CD Bootchanger System ■ Detachable front panel. ■ 50 watts power output. Model 5847. Was £249.99. FREE INSTALLATION Ask for details £50 SALE PRICE £199.99

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JVC 10-Second Anti-Shock Personal CD Player Model XLP43. Was £99.99. FREE CD HOLDER Model KOSS CD20 Ask for details. SUPERSTORES ONLY £10 SALE PRICE £89.99

SANYO 10-Second Anti-Shock Personal CD Player ■ Fast car kit included. ■ Remote control headphones. Model CDP400. Was £139.99. SUPERSTORES ONLY £40 SALE PRICE £99.99

MATSUI Personal CD Player ■ Programmable CD. ■ Mains adaptor. Model 103A. In-store Price £59.99. £20 VOUCHER PRICE £39.99

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Greece hits out over damage to Elgin Marbles

CHRIS HARRIS



George Papandreou inspecting the Elgin Marbles at the museum yesterday. "There has been very great damage. History has been lost," he said

Minister calls for independent inquiry into harm done at British Museum, writes Helen Rumbelow

A GREEK minister has demanded an independent inquiry into damage done to the Elgin Marbles by the British Museum after a new book claimed they had been severely damaged during cleaning. George Papandreou, son of the late Andreas Papandreou, the former Prime Minister, spoke out after inspecting the marbles yesterday.

The atmosphere was strained as Mr Papandreou, the Deputy Foreign Minister, took a close tour of every marble on display, paying particular attention to the harm caused by the 2,500-year-old statues having been scraped with metal tools in the 1930s.

He was accompanied by Dyfri Williams, keeper of the Greek and Roman antiquities, who tried to convince him that the patina removed was much less than the 80 to 90 per cent claimed in the new edition of the author William St Clair's book, *Lord Elgin and the Marbles*.

Dr Williams said that the damage affected closer to 10 per cent of the marbles, and said that the best method of inquiry would be a scholarly examination by the British Museum next year.

Mr Papandreou had just come from breakfast with Mr St Clair, whose new evidence into the misguided cleaning in the third edition of his book reopened the debate into whether the British should return the marbles to Greece. They were brought to England from the Parthenon by Elgin between 1805 and 1812.

He said he felt stirred by the viewing the marbles, his first visit since he came as a child with his father, but he was unconvinced by assurances from the museum. In particular he studied a statue of Helios, where the original dark patina remains in some areas, contrasting starkly with the light pink of scrubbed marble. "There has been very great damage. History has been lost," he said.

"The extent of the damage is the reason why our Government has sent a letter to the British Government asking for an independent commission, conducted by Unesco or the International Council of Museums, to investigate the specifics of what has gone wrong. It is in the interest of the British Museum that history be established and there is no mythology around this.

"We would like these statues back as soon as possible."

A spokesman for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said that the inquiry conducted at the time of the damage was sufficient. "As far as we are concerned the marbles will stay in the British Museum which is where they belong."

Sounds of summer soothe air travellers

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

NERVOUS air travellers are being soothed with the sounds of bird song, buzzing insects and waterfalls as they await departure.

The sounds of "a summer's day in a meadow", mingled with music, are being piped into the British Airways executive lounges at Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester airports in tests aimed at reducing stress.

The move comes after complaints by travellers that executive lounges are stuffy, functional waiting rooms. A spokesman for the airline told *New Scientist* that the company was trying to "bring the outside inside".

The material was put together by Brian Robertson, once with the 1970s rock band *Thin Lizzy*, and his partner Rob Jeffries at Yodel Studios, Brentwood, Essex. They recorded the dawn chorus, streams, waterfalls and meadows on a sunny day.

The results have been mingled with undemanding music and loaded onto a computer-controlled CD jukebox that schedules the sounds and the tunes.

The sound system has been made by TOA, a Japanese company. Brett Downing, director of its British arm, said the sounds were almost subliminal. "You may not take any notice of the sounds ... you hear it but you do not hear it. But there are things like duck calls at specific times of day."

Not everyone is convinced that the idea will work. Peter Simpson, a psychologist at the University of Surrey, said: "The idea must be based on the notion that the sounds of nature are by definition calming. But why would the waterfall be calming without the physical coolness and the breeze?"

The day of reckoning for charity campaigns

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

JUNE 1 seemed like a good day to launch Foot Health Week. Unfortunately for the Society of Chiropodists, they chose the most congested day of the British "awareness raising" calendar. June 1 also marked the start of 12 other campaigns, including National Vegetarian Week, Quality British Turkey Month, Sun Awareness Week and National Osteoporosis Month.

Yesterday a register was announced by charities, pressure groups and public relations organisations to try to prevent similar clashes. The task will not be easy.

The number of such campaigns has risen by 72 per cent over the past year, bringing the annual total to 375. June is teaming with 56 campaigns.

Although the voluntary sector and the PR industry are convinced that holding special events, such as Left Handers' Day (August 13) and National Day of the Dead (April 18), is a highly effective means of raising general awareness, they are growing concerned about overcrowding the public calendar.

Chris Church, campaign coordinator for Don't Choke Britain, which runs a special day in June to discourage car use, said that its 1997 awareness campaign was a great success.

"A national register of campaigns will be a highly useful tool for us and other planners who are often working on shoestring budgets to maximise the media coverage so important to the promotion of our causes," Mr Church said.

The Awareness Campaign Register — sponsored and endorsed by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, the Institute of Public Relations and charities — is available on the Internet at www.awareness.co.uk

Diana mourners sign up for therapy

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

PEOPLE who are still mourning the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, are being invited to spend a weekend discussing their grief.

A team of therapists will be on hand to help them to come to terms with their loss during the two-days. The £60 get-together called "The Diana Weekend" is being advertised on the Internet in an attempt to attract people from all countries.

James Roose-Evans, the organiser, said yesterday: "Many people haven't got over Diana's death. The seminar may help by allowing them to grieve together with like-minded people. They can share their feelings with others who feel the same about the Princess."

People going to the seminar are being asked to bring a pair of scissors and their favourite pictures of Diana from newspapers and magazines. One of the sessions will involve making a collage of pictures that were taken during the Princess's life.

Mr Roose-Evans said: "Diana has been dead for less than a year but already she has become a phenomenon of our times. We think that it is an appropriate time to ask why this is the case and we hope to get some idea from the people who are attending our seminars."

The session will take place on July 18 and 19 at the Barn Centre in Bleddfa, near Llandrindod Wells, central Wales. Ten people have already signed up to attend the seminar.



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Big increase in single mothers boycotting CSA

Alexandra Frean on concerns over nameless fathers who pay nothing in maintenance for their children

THE number of single mothers effectively boycotting the Child Support Agency by refusing to name the fathers of their children has almost doubled in less than two years, according to secret Whitehall report.

Ministers are alarmed that the rise, from 40 to 70 per cent, is making it easier for absent fathers to pay nothing towards the maintenance of their children. New figures from the Department of Social Security show that 1.3 million children — 10 per cent of the total child population in Britain— are living in single-parent households supported entirely by the State.

"What these figures tell us is that mothers as well as fathers are opting out of the CSA because it is a system that is not seen to be working," a government source said.

A further 458,000 dependent children were living with single working mothers who got state support through family credit but who also received no financial contribution from non-resident fathers, bringing the total number of children for whom the State was acting as an absent parent to 1.78 million, the source said.

Under agency rules, only the threat of domestic violence is accepted as a reason for not revealing the father's identity. Ministers believe the rise reflects growing disillusionment with the agency.

The Government is determined to encourage more people to shoulder their parental responsibilities. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, is particularly concerned that millions of boys are growing up in households where the father contributes nothing to family finances. "What kind of message does that send out to children? It seems to be saying to boys that fatherhood is about leaving the taxpayer to support your children," she said.

Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, who chairs the ministerial group on the family, is keen to find ways to encourage non-resident fathers to maintain social and financial contact with their families. "Being a father is not just about writing cheques, but also about playing a part in your children's upbringing," a source said.

The Government has promised "root and branch" review of the agency, which will culminate in the publication of a Green Paper later this year. Ministers believe that better enforcement of maintenance orders can be achieved through replacing the complicated formula used for assessing payments, which takes up 90 per cent of staff time, with a fixed percentage rate linked to the earnings of the absent parent. One proposal requires non-resident parents to pay 15 per cent of their net income for the first child, and 5 per cent each for the second and third.

However, Bruce Sawford of the 3,000-member National Association for Child Support Action — which campaigns against the agency — said that the introduction of a fixed levy for payments would create as many problems as the existing formula. "It is bound to be unpopular because it does not take account of outgoings, such as housing and travel costs," he said.

ROSS PARRY



John Kimmons's Punch and Judy show entertains without using violence

Violent rogue may soon throw his last punch

BY DEBORAH COLLCUTT

MR PUNCH, the baby-bashing, wife-thrashing bigot, has been warned that his politically incorrect days are numbered and ordered to clean up his domestic act.

After a string of complaints, a council in Derbyshire is introducing strict regulations for entertainers, banning the use of violence and bad language in their acts.

Punch and Judy shows, which have delighted children for almost 300 years, could be barred from Chesterfield unless Mr Punch mends his bullying ways.

Campaigners against domestic violence believe that the shows could upset youngsters who have witnessed real beatings.

North Derbyshire Women's Aid, which counsels victims of domestic violence, said: "We are pleased the council is taking this line. A lot of children who come to us have witnessed violence in the home and we think that, if they are then going out to a show and seeing that again, we would think that would have an effect on them."

However, Cyril Walters, a puppeteer who staged his first Punch and Judy show in 1936, rejected the criticism and said that children's behavioural problems were the responsibility of parents, not entertainers. "As soon as kids are in trouble, they [parents] say it must be the teachers or the children they play with."

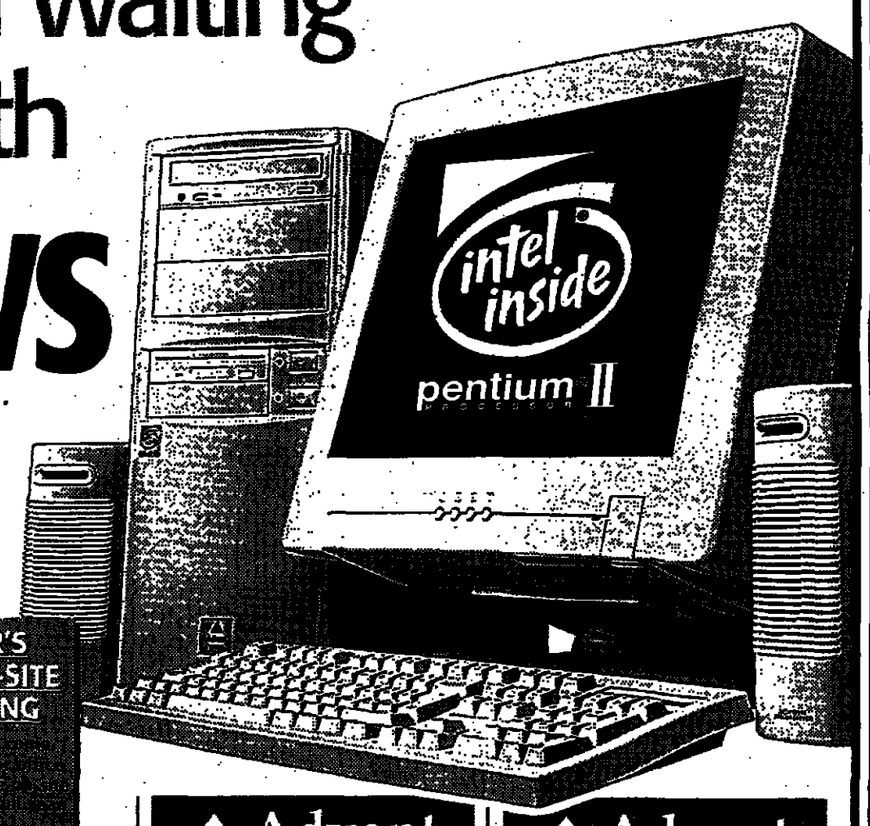
Karen Dunn, a child psychologist at Sheffield Hallam University, said there was little evidence that children developed aggressive behaviour after seeing shows such as Punch and Judy, although she agreed that Mr Punch's treatment of Judy could leave mental scars.

"Scenes where males hit females could reinforce what children may have seen or heard elsewhere," she said. "If a child sees a male hitting a female, they could register this as a gender thing, and that is potentially damaging."

John Kimmons, 30, is one of a growing number of entertainers who have softened Mr Punch's image and excluded violence from their shows.

"The scene where Mr Punch murders his baby by throwing it down the stairs and battering it against the wall never seemed right to me," Mr Kimmons said. "I found the funny bits were not the bits where Mr Punch was killing people."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Male nude model may change job

An artist's model has lost his sex discrimination case against a college, and may now give up the work. George Bond, 54, of Northampton, said the dispute had left him disillusioned about nude modelling for art classes. "I may concentrate on other things," he said.

Mr Bond had claimed that Northampton College was unfairly giving the lion's share of work to female models. He said that an industrial tribunal in Bedford had ruled against him.

Baby dies in bath

A nine-month-old girl drowned in the bath after her mother went to answer the telephone. Sharon Singh is thought to have slipped under the water after mother Radha, of Edinburgh, left her for a couple of minutes to answer a call.

Pigeons stolen

Racing pigeons worth £1,800 have been stolen from James Wetherall's home in Hillsborough, Sheffield. Police believe that the 18 birds, all six months old, were taken by professionals who had been watched them race on previous occasions.

Lucan medal sale

Insignia awarded to the 3rd Earl of Lucan are to be sold at auction at Spink's next month. The Earl commanded the cavalry division at Balaclava during the Crimean War and passed on Lord Raglan's order which began the Charge of the Light Brigade.

Book ban to end

Ireland is set to lift a 52-year-old ban on books alluding to abortion, miscarriage and contraception which were censored because they were regarded as advocating the "unnatural prevention of conception or the procurement of abortion or miscarriage".

Mothers 'should be given extra vote'

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN
SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

MOTHERS should be given two votes in local and national elections: one for themselves and one to represent the interests of their dependent children, according to a report published today.

The report, from the independent think-tank Demos, also recommends that the voting age be lowered to 16 and that children be given a casting vote in family decisions on major issues such as whether their parents divorce or their mothers undergo abortions. The author, Professor Stein Ringen, says that giving greater recognition to the opinions of children would strengthen the family and help to ensure its survival at a time of growing domestic upheaval and instability.

With an ageing population, voting power is shifting in favour of the elderly and their short-term interests, he says. "The exclusion of children from the franchise discourages democratic attention to long-term concerns, such as investment and environmental protection."

Professor Ringen, who holds the chair of sociology and social policy at Oxford University, recommends one extra vote for every mother with at least one child under 16. The responsibility should go to mothers because research on family finance has shown that women are more likely than men to put the interests of children before their own.

Caroline Abrahams, of NCH Action for Children, said: "It is crucial that children's voices are heard, but I don't think that we need to make it quite as formal as giving children a vote on family issues."

An NSPCC spokeswoman agreed, saying that it would be unfair to burden children with decisions about divorce.

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City called to account over 140 'lost' pupils

Manchester gets a month to learn its lessons after damning report on education, writes **John O'Leary**

ONE of Britain's biggest education authorities has been given a month to convince ministers that it can tackle its failings, including "losing" 140 pupils excluded from school.

Manchester's education service was said in a report by the Office for Standards in Education to be "beset with problems" and failing to meet some of its statutory responsibilities. As well as neglecting excluded pupils, it was breaching legal requirements on children with special educational needs.

The city was chosen for the first formal inspection of an education authority because of consistently low examination results and high levels of truancy. The inspectors also found exceptionally large numbers of empty school places and England's highest level of debt in school budgets.

The 65-page report, published yesterday, acknowledged that Manchester faced serious social deprivation, making high attainment "far from easy" for many pupils. But the inspectors criticised the authority for failing to provide special education and behaviour support services which met the needs of children or schools.

The most graphic example of the authority's poor performance was its handling of 140 children who had been excluded from school. Despite having almost a quarter of its secondary school places empty, officials could not say what, if any, education they were receiving.

Stephen Byers, the School Standards Minister, demanded that Manchester report within a month on how it intended to meet its statutory responsibilities and said the Government would expect the authority to have an action plan in place by September to raise standards in its schools.

Mr Byers said: "There are 70,000 children being educated in Manchester's schools. They need a far better deal than they are getting at the moment."

However, senior government sources said it was unlikely that a "hit squad" of the type sent into Hackney, in East London, would be required. In contrast to the political instability which left the management of Hackney's schools in chaos, councillors were already acting to improve services in Manchester.

Ofsted's report said there was "no mistaking the political will for change and improvement". The authority recently announced plans to build three new schools and merge 17 others to reduce the number of surplus places.

Despite recent improvements in its schools, Manchester appeared in the bottom 20 authorities in last year's tests of 11-year-olds and in the bottom ten at GCSE. Inspectors also found high levels of exclusion , with permanent and fixed-term exclusions running at almost 10 a day in 1996-97. One secondary school made 782 fixed-term exclusions in three years.

The report also said Manchester faced a "major challenge" in living up to the new role envisaged by legislation before Parliament, which gives LEAs the responsibility for raising standards in their schools. The authority's contribution to improvement was judged unsatisfactory in six out of nine secondary schools visited by inspectors, and less than satisfactory in seven out of 16 primary schools.

Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, promised a positive response to the report but described it as "inconsistent" in places. Improvements had already been made and further action was being taken on virtually all the areas identified.

The authority would be asking for extra funding to deliver improvements in provision for excluded children, Mr Leese said.

SUZANNE HUBBARD



Write stuff: Vicky Green, 12, a severely disabled pupil from Brewood Middle School, Staffordshire, shows Tim Vincent, the BBC television presenter, how she has perfected the skill of writing with her feet. She was one of 37 children who were presented with a writing prize from Parker at the Natural History Museum in London yesterday

Degree students upset to be on 'Noddy course'

BY RICHARD DUCE

DEGREE students who discovered their examinations were based on a nine-year-old A-level question derided their studies as a "Noddy course", an industrial tribunal was told yesterday. In the debate over falling standards that surrounded the discovery, a lecturer lost his job.

Jethro Cadbury, a lecturer in computer studies at South Thames College in Wandsworth, South London, was sacked for gross misconduct after telling *The Times* that he set a question from a 1988 A-level paper and that some of his degree students would not have had a chance of passing that paper.

Heather Barton, director of human resources at the 250-student college, told the tribunal in Croydon, South London, that the integrity and reputation of the college had been severely damaged by the comments, published in February last year.

Mr Cadbury, 50, from Tooting, South London, is claiming damages for unfair dismissal. He was sacked after a disciplinary committee meeting of the board of governors last November.

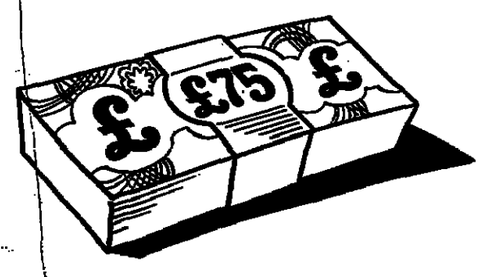
Mrs Barton, who carried out an internal investigation into Mr Cadbury's remarks, said she believed he was not covered by the "academic freedom" clause in his contract, which said teaching staff could put forward "new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions" about academic matters without placing their jobs or privileges in jeopardy.

Mrs Barton told the tribunal: "I feel very strongly that propounding of these ideas should be through teaching and research. The article in *The Times* was not part of his teachings or research within the confines of his contract." The hearing continues.



Cadbury: was sacked for gross misconduct

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Dons marked Tumim down for mocking them

Dominic Kennedy and **John O'Leary** analyse why Oxford Principal quit

THE dons of St Edmund Hall fell out with Sir Stephen Tumim when they heard that their Principal was criticising them to outsiders at a time when the Oxford college's future was at stake.

The former Chief Inspector of Prisons agreed to resign only after legal negotiations following an overwhelming vote of no confidence by the tutors, who felt that his obvious discomfort in the job was damaging Oxford's sole surviving medieval teaching hall.

Sir Stephen's departure has provoked undergraduates to stage a sit-in tomorrow on the quad, which is reserved for graduates. The students, who risk being fined by the Dean, believe the Principal was forced out because the tutors were unhappy that he had become so close to students, inviting first-years to Sunday sherry parties in his lodgings with Lady Tumim.

Insiders, though, blame a culture clash between a former judge, used to being in command of his own courtroom, and the collective voice of the dons. "He wasn't used to being one vote against their 40," an observer said.

The successful campaign by the tutors to rid themselves of Sir Stephen has come at the cost of intrigue and a payoff estimated to exceed £100,000.

Prinicipals, who are chosen by the governing body of dons, are almost impossible to remove. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford University, was approached as the hall's Visitor to intervene, but is understood to have believed Sir Stephen had not done enough to deserve being formally removed.

Imminent changes in Oxford's funding system created the urgency. St Edmund Hall is one of the university's poorest colleges and, with the Government gradually reducing the sum it pays for college fees and leaving the university to distribute the money, its future is at stake.

The students fear fundraising will be jeopardised. When General Sir Michael Rose, an honorary fellow whose son studied at the hall, agreed to lead an international drive to raise money, the dons hid the extent of their scheming against Sir Stephen from him.

Sir Robin Day, also an honorary fellow, originally recommended Sir Stephen, who retired in 1996 from his high-profile job contesting the poor condition of prisons. Sir Robin said: "This is very sad for Teddy Hall. Judge Tumim began to find things were not what he expected them to be."

One Aularian (an old boy of St Edmund Hall) has told Sir Robin that he has written to the Vice-Principal announcing that he is removing the hall from his will in protest at the loss of Sir Stephen.

Sir Stephen, 66, was chosen for the five-year tenure because it was hoped that his public image would raise the profile of the hall, an unfashionable college with a reputation for drinking, rugby and heartiness. But the dons heard that he was disparaging them while dining at High Table elsewhere.

When he hosted a reception in aid of the hall on the House of Commons terrace last summer, he was quoted in the London *Evening Standard* as saying the college was "much like prison ... especially the older dons — they're institutionalised".

His duties as Principal involved chairing meetings, but dons became tired of what they saw as his memory loss. A don from another college who regularly attended university meetings with Sir Stephen said he was often late and appeared not to have read agenda papers. "It was essential that he did the ordinary bits and pieces, because his college was financially vulnerable, but he did not seem prepared to."

Meanwhile Lady Tumim, a charity expert whose self-penned entry in Debrett's *People of Today* is longer than her husband's, was falling out with the bursar, Geoffrey Bourne-Taylor, whom she was known to regard as a "ghastly man". Dons compared her to a steamroller.

Mr Bourne-Taylor, a former officer in the Metropolitan Police, has erected in the graveyard a large stone memorial to himself, featuring a Latin inscription from an ode by Horace. The Tumim household described the engraved slabs as "the patio".

The tutors tried to remove Sir Stephen's responsibilities as chairman of all committees. They were upset when he failed to attend an evening to promote a journalism award for an Aularian killed in the Harrods bombing.

When the hall's warmly regarded head of development, Nancy Giles, who had to work closely with Sir Stephen, resigned early this year to join another college, the tutors decided they had had enough. None of them voted in favour of the Principal at a crisis meeting.

"This was certainly not a small cabal forcing him out," Peter Jansen, who chairs the college's Board of Advisers, said. The board of businessmen and academics was closely involved in the protracted negotiations that led to Sir Stephen's resignation.

"We looked at whether the process was fair and satisfied ourselves that there was no vindictiveness," he said. "The fellows could have let it smoulder for three years and avoided any publicity, but they felt they had to act.

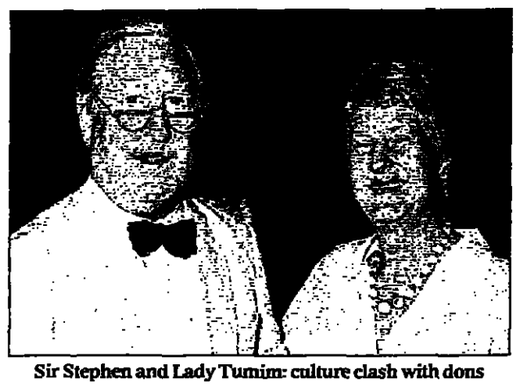
"It was clear to me within a few months of Sir Stephen arriving that there were going to be problems. In the business world, the parting would have been much more swift, but an Oxford college is a democracy and the fellows are very decent people who have behaved very properly.

"The administrative aspect of the job is of prime importance and, if you can combine that with a big name, you have the best of both worlds. But very often these two things are mutually exclusive.

"As people get older and more famous, they are not necessarily interested in doing the detailed work that has to be done within the university."

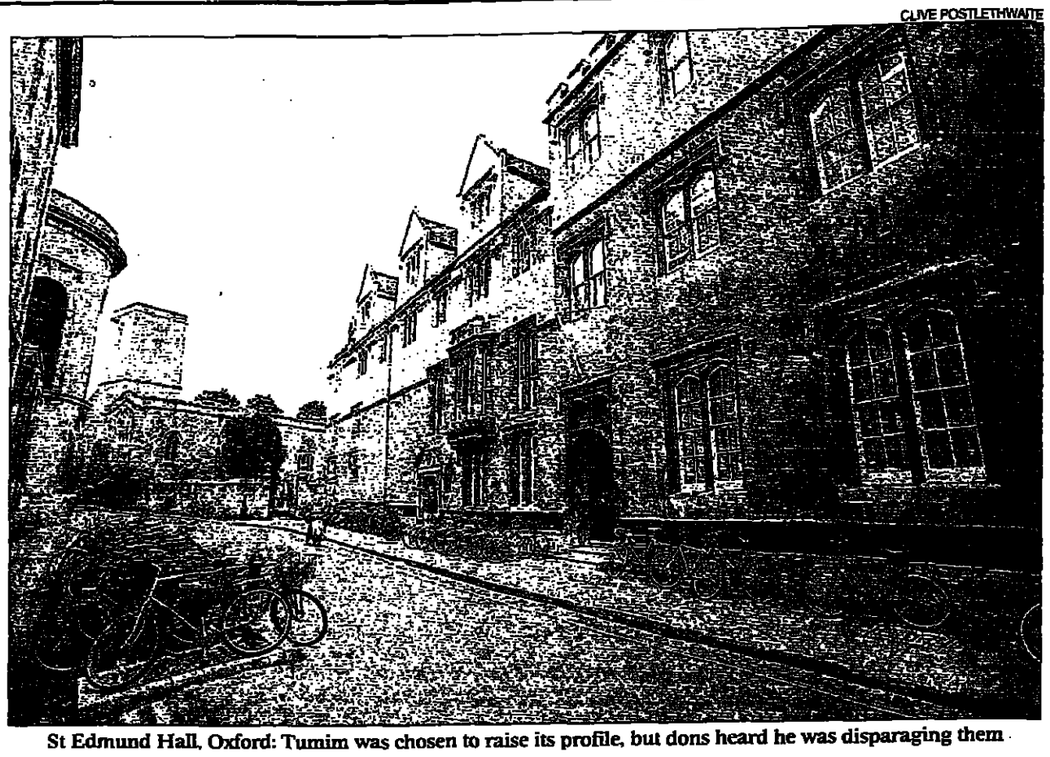
Sir Stephen has told supporters that, if he were a younger man, he would stay and fight. After receiving a hero's welcome from cheering students when he returned from a trip to London this week, he told *The Times*: "The only thing I can do is to keep out of it altogether."

Leading article & Letters, page 25

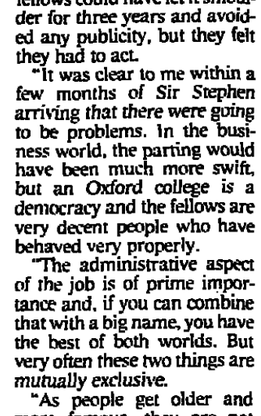


Sir Stephen and Lady Tumim: culture clash with dons

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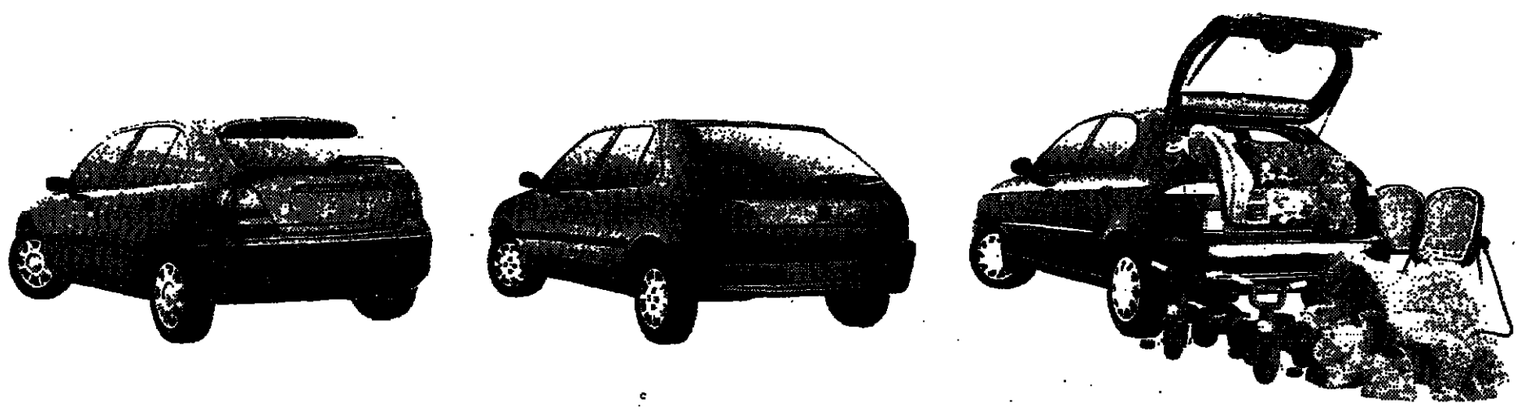
St Edmund Hall, Oxford: Tumim was chosen to raise its profile, but dons heard he was disparaging them



Day: he recommended Tumim for the post

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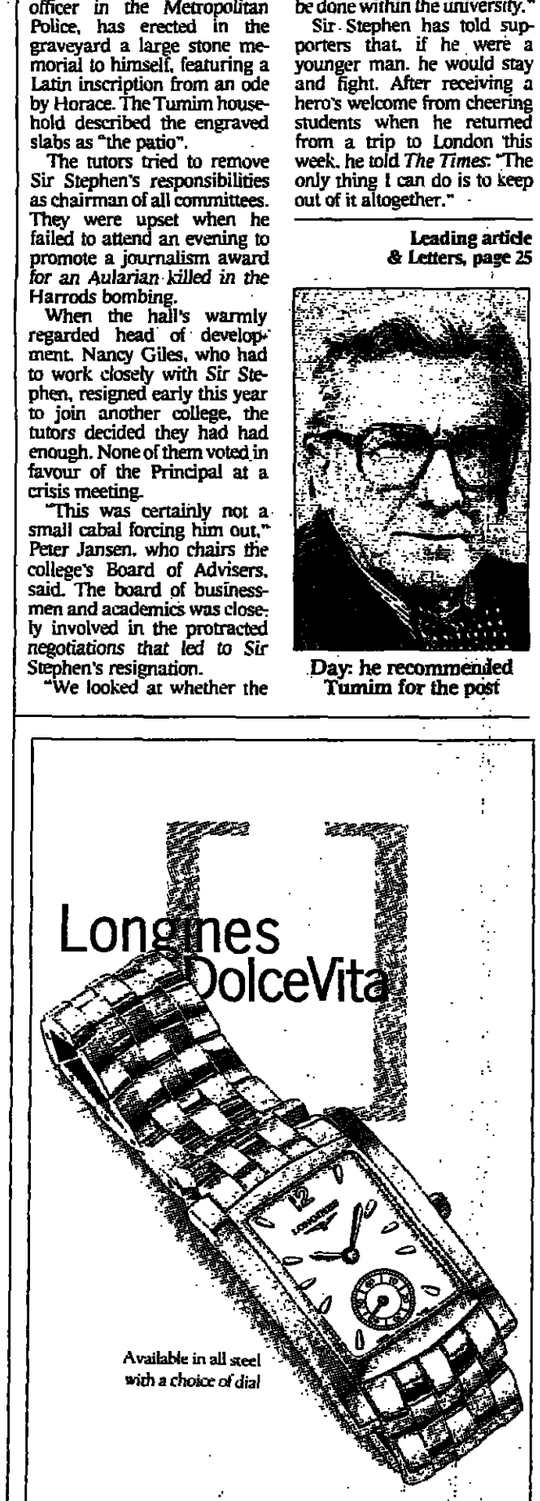
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NHS 'will run out of doctors in ten years'

THE NHS will have too few doctors to function properly in ten years unless 1,000 more are trained every year, leaders of the British Medical Association warned yesterday.

"They have got to do something about this urgently because if they don't the NHS is going to run out of doctors early in the new millennium," said Andrew Hobart, deputy chairman of the BMA's Junior Doctors' Committee.

Doctors were averaging 10,300 eight-minute consultations a year, he said. "They can't be expected to do more and yet that is what will have to happen if we don't start training more immediately."

One in six junior doctors was still working more than 56 hours a week and on call for 72 hours despite an agreement with the Government that these long hours would be ended 18 months ago. There were not enough consultants *to supervise juniors properly.*

Jim Johnson, chairman of the BMA's Consultants' Committee said that only 38 per cent of the 4,970 doctors who qualified here last year were British. Europe was taking steps to reduces its overproduction of trained doctors and

BMA says 1,000 more must be trained every year to beat crisis, writes Ian Murray

it was unfair to take them from developing countries that needed them more.

"We should be self-sufficient and produce enough of our own but that just isn't happening. We rely on other countries to produce the doctors we need for our NHS," he said.

The 1,000 extra places in medical schools was a conservative estimate. Even if they were created immediately and a thousand new students *started training this October* they would still not be qualified for five years and it would take another ten to 12 before any could become specialists.

"The lead in time is a very long time and it is a matter of urgency that the Government make a quick decision about this. Seven months ago their own advisory committee said these places were needed but nothing has happened since."

Another 4,000 consultants were needed simply to implement government policy to reduce hours and to improve training. Increasing the number by that amount would not make any difference to waiting lists or patient care.

John Chisholm, chairman of the GPs' Committee, said the crisis was the worst in 30 years. A replacement level of 1,700 GPs was needed every year but only 1,550 were being trained, of whom 200 were from the EU and likely to return to their own country after qualifying. There were very few GPs under 35 and a dramatic fall in numbers prepared to stay on after 60. Another 3,000 recruited from the Indian sub-continent 30 years ago were now over 50 and due to retire shortly. *Replacing them in inner cities* where they served ethnic populations whose culture and language they understood would be impossible.

Nationally, average lists of patients were 200 above the 1,700 optimum level set 20 *years ago. With more GPs* working working part-time, and greater demands for consultations, lists needed to be significantly lower than 1,700.

"We are facing disaster in general practice, with increasing lists and shortening consultations. Even with 1,000 extra students, we shan't see the GPs of the future for another ten years."

Peter Dangerfield, chairman of the Academic Committee, said there were three times more suitable applicants for medical school than there were places available. "We are having to turn down high quality applicants who could do the job all the time but we are not allowed to take them on," he said.

Alan Milburn, the Health Minister, said last week the Government was "actively considering" funding 1,000 extra places — expected to cost £200 million a year — but this would depend on the government's spending review.

CENSURED ANAESTHETIST KEEPS JOB



THE anaesthetist who was found guilty last week of serious professional misconduct is to keep his job as a consultant at a hospital in South Wales (Mark Henderson writes).

Directors of the Glan-y-Môr NHS Trust decided that Tapas Basu, right, whose ten-year-old patient died under general anaesthetic for a dental operation, should not be sacked from his position at Neath General Hospital, West Glamorgan, as a result of the ruling by the General Medical Council. Dr Basu, 59, was banned from working with children or outside a hospital for three years by the GMC's professional conduct committee for errors he made in the care of Kate Dougal in January 1996. Andrew Bellamy, the trust's chief executive, said yesterday that Dr Basu's routine work did not require him to anaesthetise children, so the terms of his registration were unaffected.



ANDREW LANGTHORNE, 2, with his personal supply of milk. He has a severe allergy to cows' milk, which is somewhat unfortunate for a boy who lives on a 350-acre dairy farm, so his father, Paul, looked for an animal whose milk would suit him (Joanna Bale writes). He discovered an unusual *solution — buffalo milk — and has now added two* water buffaloes to his herd.

The pair have had a calf and the Langthornes are hoping to build up a herd to protect Andrew's supply of milk and provide extra income. Buffalo milk is low in cholesterol and has twice the calcium of cows' milk.

Mr Langthorne, who farms with his father, Bert, at Brompton, near Northallerton, North Yorkshire, said: "It has really conquered Andrew's allergy." The Langthornes had started keeping goats to provide another source of milk, but Andrew, who suffers from cystic fibrosis, reacted to some of the goats' milk products.

His father was considering buying milking sheep when he saw an advertisement for the buffaloes, which came from one of the few herds bred in Britain. Mr Langthorne said: "Andrew drinks a lot of milk and also has milk on his cornflakes. When he was having goats' milk, cheese and yoghurt it proved to be a bit too much. He was all right with *sheep products, but the buffalo milk was ideal.*

"Buffalo milk makes really nice yoghurt, and the milk is rich and creamy and high in protein. We mix it with our goats' milk for him and he really likes it. We want to produce the goats' and buffalo milk on a larger scale and sell milk, cheese and yoghurt. Andrew is really happy with the buffalo milk and we hope more people in the area will be tasting it soon."

Buffaloes solve boy's allergy

EU to ban planes that break smog limits

BY NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

AIRCRAFT that cause pollution will be banned over European Union countries, Gavin Strang, the Transport Minister, will disclose today.

EU transport ministers meeting in Luxembourg are expected to announce backing for a worldwide scheme that sets new standards for the engines of subsonic aircraft. The scheme, drawn up by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, based in Montreal, will cut emissions of nitrogen oxides by up to 16 per cent.

The gases cause smog, and from high-flying aircraft can deplete the ozone layer, which filters out the Sun's harmful rays. The standards, set to come in next year, 1999, should also make planes more fuel-efficient, cutting carbon dioxide emissions which are linked with global warming.

A British official said yesterday that EU transport ministers under the six-month British presidency, which is nearly over, would be issuing a clear statement backing the plan. Ministers were expected to announce that Europe would go it alone and ban new aircraft failing to meet the new standards if a worldwide agreement cannot be approved. Last year there were proposals for a Europe-wide aviation fuel tax to push engine-makers to design more fuel-efficient products. But there were concerns that this would be hard to enforce and might put Europe's airlines at a disadvantage.

An EU diplomat said yesterday that a European ban on polluting engines, rather than a fuel tax, could produce such an improvement in engines that the goal of the International Civil Aviation Organisation would be achieved. No engine manufacturer would continue building high-pollution planes if that meant excluding themselves from the EU market, he said.

Environment ministers were yesterday holding talks with European colleagues over how to share Europe's responsibility for tackling global warming. Under the international deal agreed in Kyoto last December, the EU is pledged to reduce by 8 per cent the gases that cause the phenomenon. At the summit in Japan, Nations decided to try to halt the threat of climate change by the year 2012.

Britain wants to set a legally binding target for itself of reducing the emissions by 12 per cent, and to have an even more ambitious 20 per cent voluntary target. Other EU countries have their own targets so that, overall, the 8 per cent cut is achieved.



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THE FORGOTTEN CHILDREN OF MACEDONIA AND THE BALKANS APPEAL

Announcement

Issued by National Savings on behalf of HM Treasury

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NATIONAL SAVINGS

XA3 FO8

Cook ready to fight cuts at Foreign Office

Nicholas Watt hears minister plead case for strong British diplomatic presence

BRITAIN cannot afford to lose any more diplomats, Robin Cook said yesterday as he showed his determination to fight Gordon Brown's demands for big savings in the Foreign Office's £1 billion budget.

The Foreign Secretary said that staffing levels in the Diplomatic Service were much lower than in comparable countries and insisted that there was no scope for further cutbacks. "We have a much smaller level of representation than either Paris or Bonn in the rest of the world. In Latin America, for instance, they both have three times as many diplomats as we do.

"That in itself is not necessarily fatal because our staff are able and high calibre. They can take on odds of three to one. But there is not any scope for making them less."

With the Chancellor's comprehensive spending review due for completion in the next few weeks, Mr Cook is fighting to protect a department that has been singled out for big cut. Total Foreign Office staffing stands at 5,800, down by a quarter since 1980. Britain has 2,350 diplomats working abroad, compared with 6,000 for France and 3,600 for Germany.

Mr Cook, who said he was conducting a "civilised dialogue" with the Treasury, also stepped up his efforts to safeguard British overseas missions from the threat of closure or retrenchment. Mr Brown has his sights on the £600 million spent every year on British embassies and high commissions because of the widespread public impression that many envoys enjoy lavish lifestyles. But Mr Cook told *The Times* that it was a myth that the typical diplomat spent his time "sipping champagne and nibbling cucumber sandwiches".

One half of all British overseas mission employed five people or fewer and they often worked in conditions of hardship and danger. In the past few months, four British envoys had been kidnapped. Mr Cook said that he had experienced their privations at first hand, being fed "goat kebab" three times in succession on his visit to the British diplomatic post in Rwanda.

"These people are doing a really tough job, often very isolated, often in conditions of considerable danger. I can well understand why they feel it is a travesty of the British Diplomatic Service to portray people as living in luxury in former 18th Century palaces."

Mr Cook admitted that the British embassies in Paris and Bonn were grand institutions, but said that in some places "you do need to have prestige because influence is important".

He also underlined his determination to press ahead with plans to build an £80 million embassy in Moscow. The workload from visa applications had increased enormously and the embassy had an increasingly important commercial role.

Mr Cook said that Britain's decline as a world power strengthened rather than weakened the case for a well-funded Foreign Office. In Britain's imperial heyday, the world had come to London. Now Britain had to sell itself abroad. "When we were an imperial power, we needed alliances, partnerships and friendships rather less than we do so now. As a middle-ranking power, we are much more dependent on networking than we were before."

Mr Brown has complained to Cabinet colleagues that they have not done enough to raise money by selling off surplus property identified in the Government's new national assets register, the so-called Domesday Book. The Foreign Office was singled out as the worst offender after Treasury officials visited the embassy in Paris and the residency in Rome and were amazed by the grandeur of the surroundings and the scale of the hospitality.

☐ Britain's image abroad is suffering because of a virtual absence of black diplomats, Mr Cook said yesterday at the opening of a Foreign Office recruitment fair for applicants from ethnic minorities. The Diplomatic Service did not recruit any blacks last year.


DAVID BURNER

Warsop Vale, where many former coal board houses owned by private landlords are empty and vandalised

Call to outlaw bad landlords

Valerie Elliott reports on an action plan to help the blighted pit villages

PRIVATE landlords should face criminal charges if they allow properties to become unfit to live in, a report published today recommends.

The report, by the Coalfield Task Force, calls for action to revive declining pit villages but its proposals could have a much wider impact. It says that the housing stock in many former mining communities has deteriorated so badly that they now resemble "war zones". To improve conditions for tenants it suggests changes in the law to introduce unlimited fines for landlords who fail to comply with repair notices and to create an offence of failing to maintain a property in a condition fit for human habitation.

The report says that the Government should also offer firms 10-year holidays from corporation tax or an exemption from national insurance contributions to encourage new business that could bring in 50,000 jobs; designate 29 former colliery sites as New Enterprise Zones enabling the land to be reclaimed and used; approve a network of roads to link the isolated former collieries with motorways and improve their attraction to business; and change the rules on lottery funding to bring in more money to the blighted villages.

The Coalfields Task Force was set up eight months ago by John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to devise a regeneration strategy. The team highlights what it sees as unfairness in the distribution of lottery money. While Londoners have benefited by £150 per head of the population, the East Midlands coalfields have received £50, and the Kent coalfield less than £13. One problem is that these communities are often too poor to be able to match funding provided by the lottery. The report calls for new rules to take this into account, allowing for a lower percentage of locally raised funds and "offers in kind", such as office space.

The team was alarmed by the deprivation in the former mining areas. In parts of South Yorkshire 40 per cent of households have no wage earner, mortality rates are 12 per cent above the national average and many thousands of ex-miners are receiving sickness benefit.

Community struggling with life after coal

WARSOP VALE used to be a thriving mining community. About 1,000 men worked at the pit, which provided a guaranteed job for generations of miners. Most lived in rows of red-bricked cottages owned by the National Coal Board, with a cluster of shops providing for their needs.

But in 1989, after just two weeks' notice from the coal industry, the pit closed. Today most of the 210 houses in the Nottinghamshire village are owned by private, absent landlords. There is just one shop, one pub and one public telephone. People have to travel by bus two miles to a doctor's surgery or to a supermarket. The school has closed, the building having become a factory making shower curtains and offering mainly part-time work to local women. The children travel by bus the two miles to schools in Shirebrook or Warsop.

Many of the houses have fallen into decay or have been vandalised, and are empty and boarded up. The "dreadful" housing conditions in Warsop Vale shocked the task force set up to devise a regeneration strategy. Some houses are infested with vermin.

Ronnie Ashlett, a resident who has led a "Stop the Rot" campaign, said that too many homes were being rented to itinerant families who drifted in and out of the village, leading to a loss of stability because they had no interest in the future of the community. She said that many properties owned by absent landlords were in particularly poor condition and that the village badly needed more jobs.

Principled Hague could find himself in anti-euro isolation

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Cardiff summit was longer on promises of future action and populist gestures than on specific achievements. But it did mark a *potentially* important shift as Tony Blair talked more warmly than before about monetary union. The shift is still tentative — and was barely mentioned in the Commons yesterday — but Mr Blair's advisers detect signs that opinion is moveable on the issue.

However, the significance of this shift has so far been lost on the Tories. William Hague and his advisers believe that the British public is basically Eurosceptic and that opposition to a single currency will be a vote-winner. His approach is causing growing dissatisfaction on the Tory Centre-Left, which is trying both to organise for the Euro-selections, with mixed success, and to keep pressing an alternative view. (For instance, Kenneth Clarke and Ian Taylor are addressing a Tory Reform Group conference this weekend.)

Mr Hague's stance may not, however, be shrewd electoral politics. The veil was lifted yesterday on the fullest academic study of voter attitudes, the 1997 British Election Study, conducted by Anthony Heath, Roger Jowell and John Curtice of the Centre for Research into Elections and Social Trends (Crest). They argue that the continued repositioning of Labour under Mr Blair threatens to leave the Tories in a permanent electoral wilderness. "Conservative hopes that the party might rebuild itself by taking a Eurosceptic stance may well be dashed too."

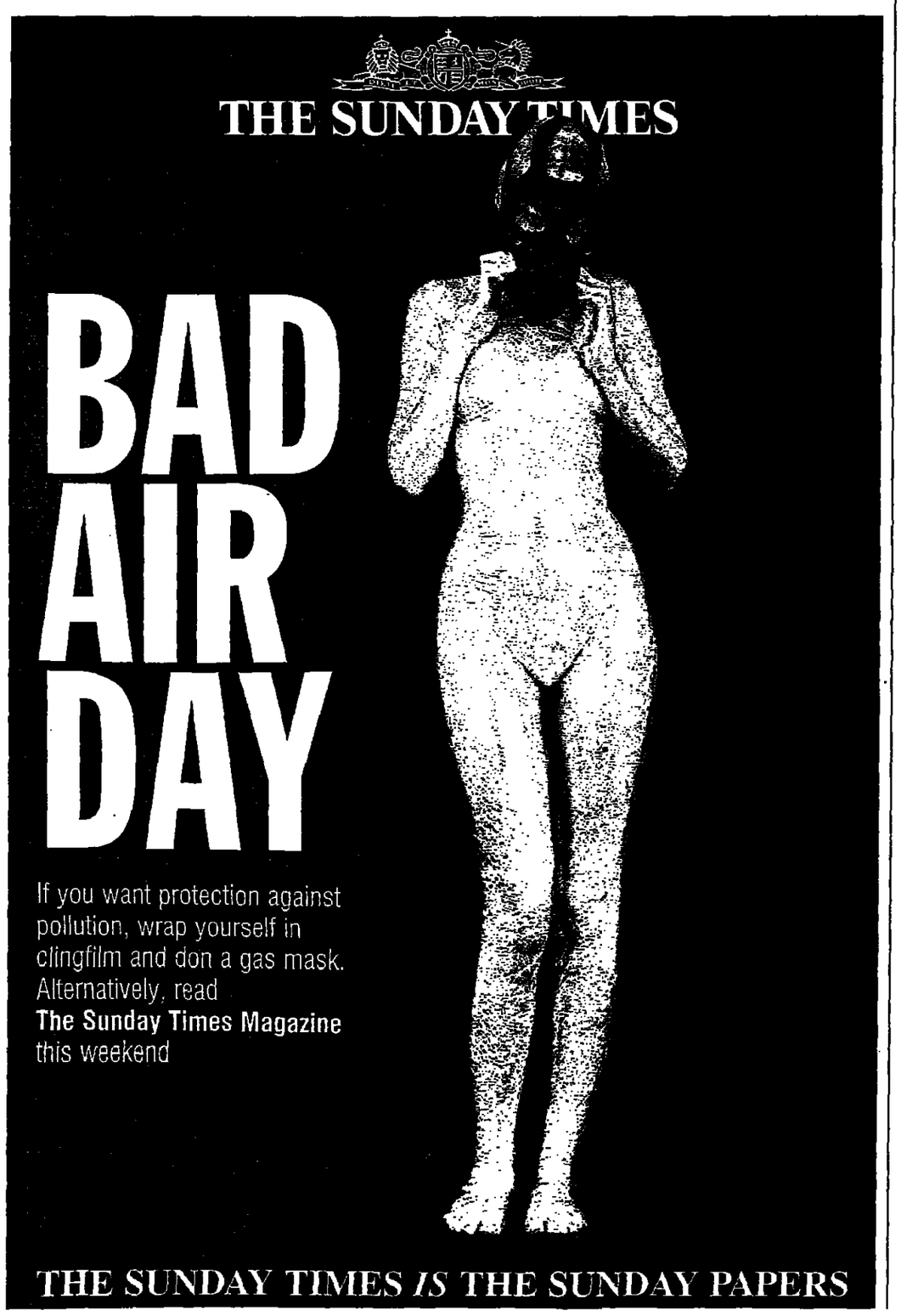
The study followed the behaviour and attitudes of 2,000 voters throughout the last Parliament. Many supporters of the Referendum Party had already defected from the Tories before the party was founded in 1995. Just one in ten voters for the Referendum Party in 1997 had backed the Tories in the 1994 Euro-elections, whereas nearly three in ten had voted Labour or Liberal Democrat. Indeed, the intervention of the Referendum Party may not have cost the Tories seats but may, rather, have helped to save one or two seats from falling to Labour and the Lib Dems through split votes.

The authors conclude, more contentiously, that, as Europe was not the reason why many defected, such voters are unlikely to be willing to return to the Tory fold on the basis of a Eurosceptic stance alone. Perhaps. An alternative explanation is that, while Mr Hague may win back *some* former supporters who voted for the Referendum Party in May 1997, he may fail to win back the far larger number who defected to Labour or the Lib Dems, or who abstained. They are unlikely to be attracted by a more sceptical tone.

The message of the polls is not clear-cut. A series of MORI polls for Salomon Smith Barney suggests that over half the public remains hostile to British entry though the net balance against has shrunk slightly since the election, to minus 23 points from more than minus 30 points in 1996. A more accurate guide may come from questions asking about attitudes if the Government were strongly to urge that Britian should join. This produces a smaller negative balance of minus 14 points with Labour voters, women and under-25s becoming markedly less opposed. There is no evidence of any marked pro-EMU shift during the presidency, though Mr Blair has only changed his lanaguage recently.

Other polls show that, while many more people are strongly opposed to EMU than are strongly in favour, roughly two fifths have a conditional attitude, depending on what happens and what the Government says. Mr Blair's advisers believe that the arrival of the euro from next January will begin to change opinion. Mr Blair is not yet prepared to argue positively for British entry, but he is moving in that direction. Mr Hague believes that he is a man of principle, but that may still leave him looking rather isolated in three years' time.

PETER RIDDELL







Klaus: facing a resurgent Left

Ailing Havel ponders election riddle

BY ROGER BOYES AND JAMES DRAKE IN PRAGUE

PRESIDENT HAVEL, written off as a political player because of his long battle with cancer, is about to stage a comeback by brokering a new Czech Government.

Elections in the Czech Republic on Friday and Saturday are likely to *show a shift to the Left* but will leave the country without an obvious stable coalition.

For *the past few* months the 61-year-old writer-statesman has been recovering from a series of operations. Accompanied by his dog Sugar, he has hiked around the presidential estate, trying to solve what may be his last political riddle.

The Social Democrats of Melos Zeman are ahead with about 25 per cent of the vote, the Civic Democrats of Margaret Thatcher's disciple, Vaclav Klaus, are trailing with 20 per cent. The *game is to work out* which small parties survive — 5 per cent is needed to enter parliament — with a good enough showing to help form a centre-left or a centre-right government.

As the 30th anniversary of the 1968 Warsaw Pact invasion approaches, it is ironic that one route to power for the Social Democrats is to ally with the largely unreformed former communists. The propaganda potential of such a move has not been lost on Mr Klaus, who is campaigning on a slogan of "vote for Klaus — or drift to the Left!"

Mr Klaus believed the Czech *revolution* was about speeding towards capitalism but the economy is growing at around 1 per cent, *compared with* Polish growth of 7 per cent. That is why the Czechs may buck the central Europe trend and vote for the Centre Left.

EU states sign Kyoto targets for cleaner air

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

AFTER two days of bargaining, Britain yesterday clinched an accord among European Union states on the reduction in greenhouse gases that each must make to honour Europe's pledge to curb by 8 per cent its share of the emissions causing global warming.

The deal, which allows Germany and three other northern states to soften their earlier commitments on gas emission, saves the EU's face after it appeared *to waver* from its strong line at last December's United Nations-sponsored talks on climate change at Kyoto in Japan.

The Government hailed the accord, negotiated by Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, and John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and Environment Secretary, as a victory for its campaign to have the EU *set a global* example on greenhouse gases during its turn in the EU presidency. Austria takes over *the EU seat next week.*

Emerging from the marathon session of EU environment ministers in Luxembourg, Mr Prescott called the deal "an enormous achievement and one of the key successes of our presidency", and added: "It keeps up the momentum on international action to tackle climate change and shows that Europe leads the way in turning the rhetoric of Kyoto into action."

Ministers wrangled through the night on Tuesday over the legally binding national shares, with each percentage point representing huge future costs for their industries. Most of the burden *will fall on the energy and* manufacturing industries, and transport and farming.

Each state must now *produce a plan, in co-ordination* with Brussels, to implement their promises. The main tools for governments will be *higher taxes and, to a lesser extent,* a system by which companies and countries may trade their "polluting rights".

Germany, The Netherlands, Denmark and Austria — among the "greenest" EU states — joined Belgium and *Luxembourg in demanding a* smaller share of the burden than they had agreed last year. Britain, with its own longer-*term target of a 20 per cent cut,* was the only state offering to increase its target. It agreed to raise its share to 12.5 per cent *from 12 per cent.* Germany agreed to 21 per cent.

The Government is to consult industry and private sector organisations this summer on ways of meeting the cuts. The Treasury is considering new taxes on the use of energy by industry and commerce as well as the use of emission-trading schemes. The trading system, a "stock exchange" in pollution rights, is still to be worked out internationally. Countries or companies could pay for the right to exceed their emission targets by buy*ing shares from those which* are under their limits.

Europe was the driving force behind the Kyoto accord *which agreed to cut the output* of six greenhouse gases — carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and three indus*trial gases — to an average of* 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels by 2008-2012. The EU's commitment to an 8 per cent reduction compared with 7 per cent for the US and 6 per cent for Japan. Yesterday's agreement will put the EU in a *strong position when it pro*poses strict international rules on how to implement the cuts at a conference in Buenos *Aires in November.*

However, Dr Patrick Green of Friends of the Earth said Britain should have "shown a lead" by putting on the table at Luxembourg its voluntary 20 per cent target. "Current agriculture, energy and transport policies are not sustainable and will lead to a rise in emissions," Dr Green said.

ANATOLI MALTSEV / EPA



A young woman admires objects from Troy on display at an exhibition in St Petersburg commemorating the Russian city's links with the celebrated 19th-century German archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann. The exhibition at the Hermitage Museum includes part of the collection which Schliemann gave to a St Petersburg college, as well as other items captured by the Soviet Army during the Second World War. Schliemann began excavations in 1871 at Hissarlik in present-day Turkey, which he established as the site of Troy. The settlement he found is now considered to be of an earlier date than the city described by Homer.

Rare glimpse of Troy's treasures

Belarus relents to let envoys stay put

BY MICHAEL BINYON DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

PRESIDENT Lukashenko of Belarus has backed down in his row with foreign diplomats, yesterday signing a decree that rescinded an earlier order expelling 22 ambassadors from their residences in Minsk.

However, the authoritarian leader had a notice erected at the entrance to the Drozdy complex noting that the leafy *diplomatic compound was the* "Residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus". Diplomats said that it was unclear *whether the reprieve was tem*porary or permanent, and the notice suggested that Mr Lukashenko, who also lives *there, still wanted to evict his* neighbours in the long term.

The decree lifts the threat by more than a score of ambassa*dors, including the American,* the Russian and all the European Union envoys, to withdraw from Minsk in protest at *what they saw as a violation of* the Vienna Convention on diplomatic immunity.

The ambassadors had been told they had to leave because urgent repairs had to be made to the drains, and two weeks ago workers welded shut the compound gates, locking the American ambassador out of his home. Belarus officials yesterday played down the confrontation, saying that no one was going to cut off the water or gas.

Vatican accused by sacked aide over millennium funds

FROM RICHARD OWEN AND JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

THE Vatican was yesterday hit by allegations of cash *"irregularities" over the refur*bishment of the Basilica of St Peter's in preparation for the millennium.

Giuseppe Gatto, formerly the chief administrator in the department which oversees the basilica's upkeep, said that he had repeatedly drawn attention to administrative irregularities in the management of the works in the Vatican. He was sacked from his post last year, but is suing the Vatican for unfair dismissal. He told *La Repubblica* that he believed he had been fired because he had "requested clarification again and again" of the fate of missing money put aside for the restoration.

He did not indicate which sums of money had gone astray or which projects were involved. But he said that he had complained to the Vatican's chief prosecutor, Nicola Picardi, who was investigating the matter.

La Repubblica said that the allegations appeared to refer *to "possible bribes and kick*backs" connected with the basilica's restoration. A Vatican lawyer, Antonio Vianello, said that Signor Gatto's dis*missal had nothing to do with* alleged corruption or missing sums of money, but was "solely connected with his work, nothing more".

Signor Gatto said: "I find it strange that I was dismissed only after I had denounced certain irregularities."

Cardinal Virgilio Noè, who heads the department responsible for the basilica's upkeep, told the newspaper: "Everything is in the hands of the Vatican magistrates."

The scandal overshadowed a press conference yesterday at which Cardinal Noè announced that Enel, the Italian state electricity company, was funding the illumination of the tomb of St Peter in the crypt. He said that "the archaeological site around the tomb" would be restored.

But the cardinal left abruptly before reporters could ask him about the allegations of financial irregularities. Joaquin Navarro-Valls, the chief Vatican spokesman, said that *the cardinal had to take an* urgent telephone call, but had nothing to add anyway.

Ex-wife 'feared loss of fortune'

BY RICHARD OWEN

THE former Gucci family lawyer *yesterday said that* Patrizia Reggiani, who is accused of ordering the murder of Marizio Gucci, her ex-husband, had been "deeply embittered" by the loss of her share of the Gucci fortunes after their divorce.

Piero Parodi also told the court in Milan, where Signora Reggiani, 50, is on trial with four others over the killing three years ago of the fashion dynasty heir, that before the murder she had clearly been afraid that Signor Gucci was frittering away his inheritance after he took up with a younger woman, Paola Franchi.

Marizio Gucci, the grandson of the firm's founder, lived a lavish lifestyle, and on several occasions became deeply indebted when projects failed. He sold his *stake in the firm* shortly before his death for a reported $150 million (£90 million).

Signor Parodi said that Signora Reggiani had *firmly* believed that some of Signor Gucci's most desirable assets, including his yacht *Creole* and their mansions at St Moritz and New York, belonged to her. But he said as *far as he was aware there was* no legal basis to her claim.

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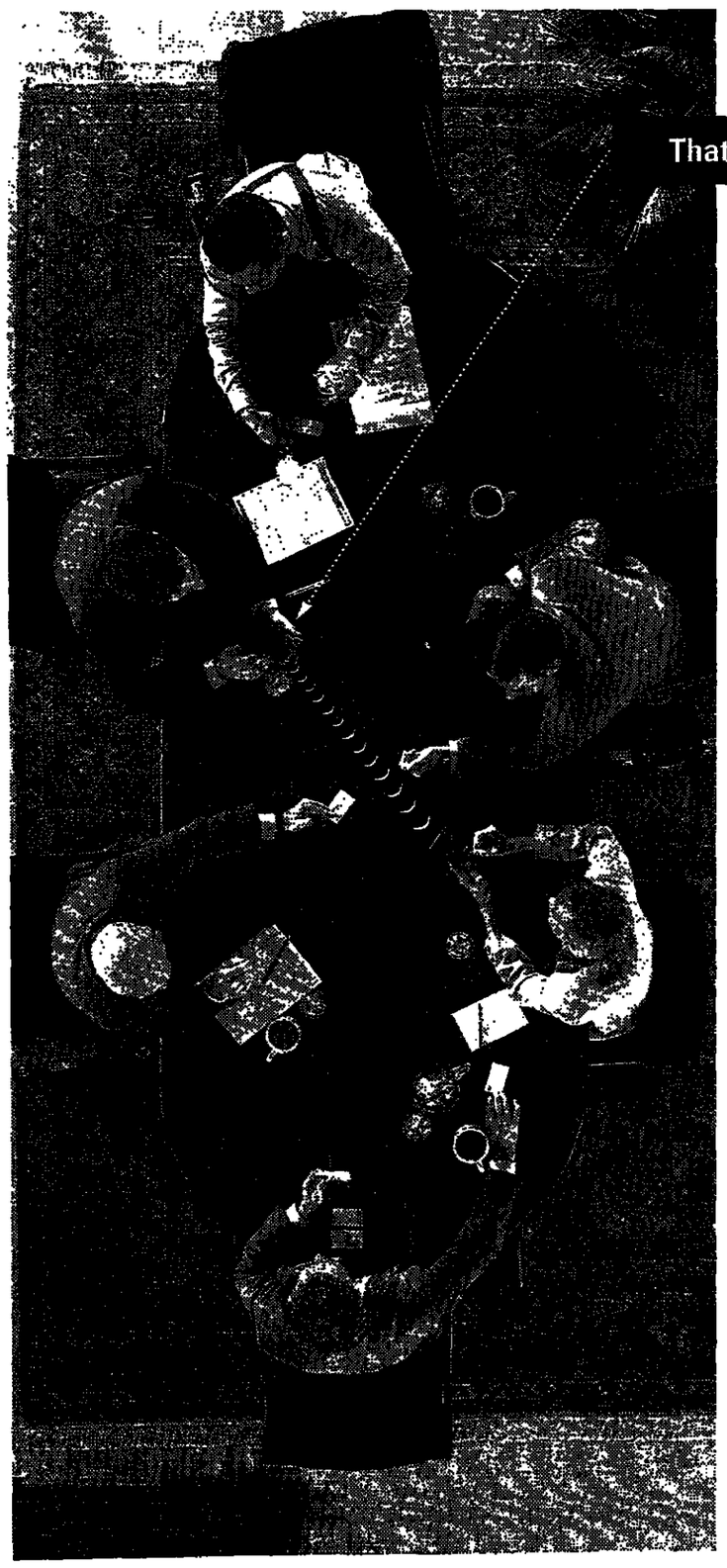
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Israel pursues Afghan ties to spy on Tehran

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL has been cultivating secret intelligence contacts with rival Islamic movements in Afghanistan with a view to installing sophisticated spying equipment to monitor Iranian nuclear arms development.

According to senior Western security sources, the pursuit of ties with Afghanistan — with which Israel has no diplomatic relations — combined with closer military links with Turkey, are part of an Israeli plan to launch a pre-emptive strike against Iranian nuclear installations before Tehran gains a nuclear capability.

The Government of Binyamin Netanyahu is worried that a nuclear Iran would tip the balance of power in favour of hardliners across the Middle East. Mossad, the Israeli secret service, estimates that Iran will complete development of the Shahab 3 ballistic missile, capable of hitting Israeli cities, in 18 months and be able to build its first atomic bomb by 2002.

The first hint of the secret Israeli-Afghan contacts came in the latest edition of the British-based newsletter *Foreign Report*, noted for its intelligence sources. They were confirmed by Israeli officials and published yesterday in the Tel Aviv press. At the same time, Itim, the Israeli news agency, reported: "Incoming Israeli Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz met on Monday with two senior Turkish Army generals as Israel and Turkey moved to tighten their relations."

Maariv, the Tel Aviv daily, quoted *Foreign Report* as claiming that as far back as the 1991 Gulf War, Israel had decided to reach out to Islamic countries, including Afghanistan. The paper continued: "The ties with the large Muslim country will help the establishment of important intelligence bases along the border with Iran. Over the past few months ... Israel opened up two secret channels: the first with the previous Afghan Government [ousted in September 1996] ... and the second with the present Taleban regime in Kabul."

Since the recent escalation of the arms race caused by the rival Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, Israel's attempts to woo the two main opposing centres of Islamic power in Afghanistan have accelerated.

Yediot Aharonot, the mass circulation Tel Aviv daily, quoted *Foreign Report* — often used as a conduit for leaking Israeli stories abroad and thus circumventing Israel's strict military censorship restrictions — as disclosing: "Israel, which is concerned about the Iranian nuclear race, hopes that its Afghan ties will enable it to install listening devices and advanced spy equipment adjacent to the Iranian border."

Eytan Bentsur, the Director-General of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, confirmed that initial contacts had taken place between Israeli diplomats and repesentatives of the Afghan rivals with the purpose of forging diplomatic ties regardless of which faction retains control of Kabul.



☐ **Tel Aviv:** An Israeli court yesterday convicted an Israeli businessman of aiding an enemy of Israel and harming state security by selling poison gas equipment to Iran, Israel radio said. Nahum Manbar, who was arrested in March 1997, had contended he had supplied arms including tanks to Iran with official Israeli approval. *(Reuters)*

Top share tipster pines behind bars

FROM ANDREW DRUMMOND IN BANGKOK

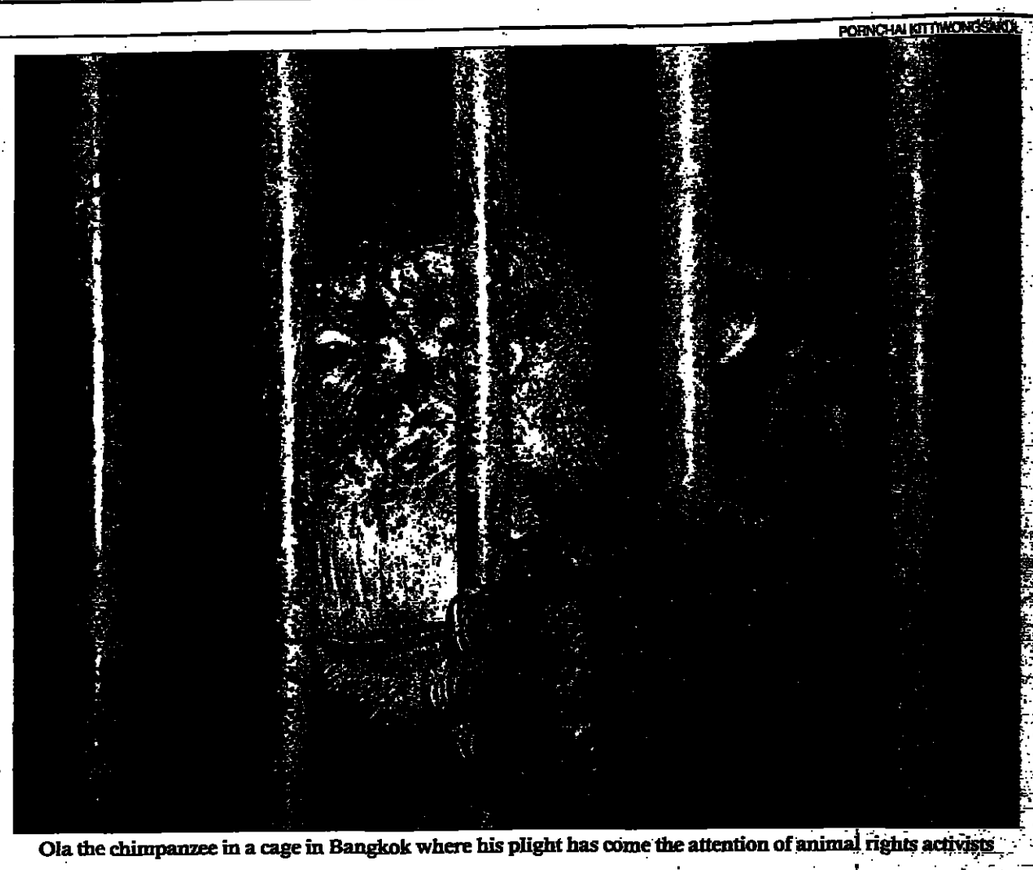
A CHIMPANZEE who beat a team of international stockbrokers hands down in a share-tipping contest and went on to become a television star in Sweden is at the centre of a wrangle after being found "downcast" in a 12 ft by 12 ft cage in a Thai safari park.

The ten-year-old chimp, Ola, much loved by the Swedish public, has started a hue and cry not seen since the day Fleet Street tabloids competed to buy and rescue Blackie the donkey, who was saved from certain death in a Spanish street festival.

Thousands of animal lovers are protesting in Sweden and demanding that Ola be rescued from Safari World, a 500-acre animal complex outside Bangkok, where he has been put out to stud.

Three years ago the Swedish newspaper *Expressen* raised funds from readers to send him to a sanctuary in Zambia, but his last owner, Boris Bravin, owner of Ollands Animal Park in Stockholm, instead made a more lucrative deal with the Thai safari park owner, Pin Kaewpaisal, a millionaire financier. Ola first achieved fame in Sweden when he was asked to select share tips by throwing stones against a wall on which were written the names of a number of listed companies. Over a year his selections produced more profits than the combined efforts of stockbrokers who were asked to select from the same list. Ola went on to star in a Stockholm theatre production of *King Gustav III* and became a television star.

PORNCHAI KITTIWONGSAKUL



Ola the chimpanzee in a cage in Bangkok where his plight has come the attention of animal rights activists

Animal rights groups say Ola is downcast and being held in filthy and oppressive conditions. A spokesman for *Expressen* newspaper said: "People are genuinely shocked to see what has happened to him. They are willing to pay for his release and we have a home waiting for him in Zambia."

Mr Kaewpraisal has refused to relent. A safari park spokesman said: "Ola is being looked after well. The quarantine centre where Ola is being kept is up to international standards and we take him for a walk every morning. He has come here to breed, which might be a better occupation than acting in the Swedish theatre."

When a park keeper was told by a reporter of Ola's fame in Sweden he replied: "Oh, good. Maybe he can give me a tip on the next winning lottery number". The reporter was then shown the door.

Reporters have not had much luck with Mr Bravin, who sold the chimp to the Thai safari park. *Expressen* reported him as saying: "Don't you think I like that monkey? He grew up with my daughter. But it's not my business now."

Ola is not the lovable young chimp seen on Swedish television, a fully grown male. Stuart Beale, of the Thai-based Wild Animal Rescue Foundation, who was asked to look at him said: "I don't think I'd like to take him for a walk."



Saddam 'executes nine arms staff over leaks'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NINE Iraqis allegedly involved in President Saddam Hussein's clandestine attempt to conceal weapons of mass destruction from United Nations arms inspectors are reported to have been executed because they were suspected of leaking information.

According to Western intelligence reports, six engineers, all officers from the Iraqi Military Industry Commission, and three drivers from the Iraqi transport company, al-Badiya, were executed in Baghdad on May 23.

The latest victims of Saddam's ruthless efforts to purge his regime of suspected disloyalty are understood to have been arrested in April by members of the armed Special Security Organisation, headed by Qusay Hussein, the feared younger son of the Iraqi leader.

The nine men are reported to have been involved in the transfer of ballistic missile equipment from Iraq to Syria during February. Missile components and production equipment were driven across the Iraqi border into Syria for safekeeping, under an agreement with Damascus, at a time when the Americans and the British were threatening to bomb military targets to force Saddam to co-operate with the UN Special Commission (Unscom) inspection teams.

The intelligence sources said that Saddam would be determined to avoid any leaks, especially after the statement from Richard Butler, the Australian Unscom chief executive, that he might be able to write a final report by October, "closing the files" on Iraq's four-part weapons of mass destruction programme — nuclear, biological, chemical and ballistic missile systems.

It appeared, they said, that Saddam was taking steps to "cleanse Iraqi territory of any incriminating evidence and new data that could expose his non-conventional weapons programme".

In March, Nasser al-Hindawi, a leading figure in Iraq's biological weapons programme, was arrested and charged with trying to leave the country with documents connected to the project.

Yesterday, underlining the British Government's suspicion that Iraq was still hiding weapons of mass destruction — particularly biological systems — contrary to Mr Butler's optimistic statement earlier this week, two ministers wrote to all MPs outlining the areas of doubt.

Derek Fatchett, Foreign Office minister, and John Reid, the Armed Forces Minister, said the claim by Iraq that it had no more documentary evidence about its secret nuclear, biological and chemical programme was "not credible".

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Bhutto cash 'in 36 secret accounts'

By Michael Dynes

INVESTIGATORS in Pakistan have uncovered 36 secret bank accounts belonging to Benazir Bhutto and her husband in Switzerland, Britain, France and America, a senior government official said.

The accounts were used to launder an estimated $1.5 billion (£900 million) in kickbacks and bribes accumulated before Ms Bhutto was dismissed as Prime Minister in 1996 on charges of corruption and mismanagement, Mushahid Hussain, the Pakistani Information Minister, alleged during an interview in London.

None of the family wealth, which is alleged to include large amounts of hard currency, hundreds of properties and several businesses, was declared in the Bhuttos' annual tax returns, Mr Hussain said. This raised the prospect that the Bhuttos might now face charges of tax evasion as well as corruption, he added. The High Court in Lahore froze the Bhutto assets in April after Pakistan's Special Accountability Bureau, established to investigate allegations of corruption, accused Ms Bhutto and her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, of fleecing the exchequer of billions of rupees during her last term of office. Ali Sibtain Fazali, the special state prosecutor, told the High Court in April that Ms Bhutto and her family had accepted large sums in exchange for awarding contracts and had used a chain of offshore accounts to funnel the proceeds out of the country.

Mr Zardari, whom Miss Bhutto appointed her Minister for Investment before she was deposed, is in prison charged with complicity in the assassination of his wife's estranged brother, Murtaza. Most of the allegations of corruption have been levelled against Mr Zardari.

Miss Bhutto has vehemently denied the allegations, insisting that she and her husband are the victims of a politically inspired witch-hunt. Doubts over the investigation's impartiality have been fuelled by the fact that it has been driven by Nawaz Sharif, the Prime Minister and arch-rival of the Bhutto dynasty, and because no charges have been brought despite nearly two years of investigation. The Pakistan authorities insist, however, that the investigation is not political and that they have the evidence to prove it. Last year, at the request of the investigators, the Swiss banking authorities froze 13 Bhutto accounts, which were alleged to contain £8 million. Under Swiss law, bank accounts can only be frozen if there is a prima facie case to answer.

The investigators also claim to have documents purporting to show that two Swiss companies had agreed to pay "commissions" into accounts held by the couple in exchange for contracts to run Pakistan's national customs inspection and collection.

The Swiss authorities this month indicted Jens Schlegelmilch, the couple's Swiss lawyer, on money-laundering charges, along with two Swiss businessmen alleged to have been involved in the Customs inspection and collection deal.

ZAHID HUSSEIN / REUTERS



Benazir Bhutto leaves the Karachi High Court, where she faced corruption charges. She could now also be charged with tax evasion

Long jail term for Spielberg stalker

Santa Monica, California: A man convicted of stalking Steven Spielberg with plans to rape him was sentenced to between 25 years and life in jail yesterday after the director asked the judge to impose the maximum sentence.

Jonathan Norman, 31, was convicted earlier this year of stalking the director and was caught at Mr Spielberg's estate with handcuffs and tape and prosecutors said he planned to rape the director in front of his wife.

Mr Spielberg, reading a prepared statement from a podium in the court, asked Judge Steven Suzukawa to give Norman, whom prosecutors described as sexually obsessed with the director, the maximum sentence. Norman was caught last summer at Mr Spielberg's estate while the director was away filming.

Norman was sentenced to 25 years to life under California's third-strike law because he had two previous felony convictions. *(Reuters)*

WORLD IN BRIEF

Euro ministers back British law for zoos

Brussels: European Union ministers are backing a British-inspired law to enforce minimum conditions for the well-being of animals in Europe's 1,000 zoos, menageries and wildlife parks (Charles Bremner writes).

Fourteen of the EU's 15 environment ministers supported the binding directive, which was promoted by Britain against the opposition of the Brussels Commission. Jacques Santer, the Commission President, cited the British directive as an example of what he sees as the hypocrisy of member states which call for less EU-wide lawmaking and then promote their favoured projects for new directives. Germany, which was opposed to the principle of an EU law covering what it sees as a national matter, abstained. The lack of any negative vote means that the Commission must accept the British version of the law in place of its own proposal, which consisted of non-binding recommendations on conditions in zoos.

Marines evacuate 780 from Bissau

Lisbon: Portuguese marines used inflatable boats and a helicopter to evacuate 780 people from the West African state of Guinea-Bissau, a defence ministry spokesman said. The operation, in the capital Bissau, followed some of the fiercest artillery exchanges to date in a military revolt that began on June 7. No gunfire was heard during the operation in the capital, where Mamadou Lamin Sedat Jobe, the Gambian Foreign Minister, met government officials in the presidential palace. Mr Jobe said he also hoped to meet Ansumane Mana, the rebel leader, in an effort to set up a dialogue between the two sides. *(Reuters)*

Lightning fire kills six in Urals

Moscow: Fire caused by lightning at ammunition depots killed at least six serviceman and injured 14 others in the Ural mountains, officials said. At least seven other servicemen were missing in a blaze which had engulfed 445 acres of forest around the depots, forcing the evacuation of 3,000 local people, the NTV television network said. The depots contained mines, artillery shells and rockets that belonged to Russian troops withdrawn from East Germany. Some of the munitions exploded because of the fire, and officials were concerned that some rockets could fly a long distance and threaten lives. *(AP)*

Muslims mourn Egyptian cleric



Cairo: One of the Muslim world's leading clerics, Sheik Mohammed Mutwali al-Sharawi, left, has died at his home near Giza, his family said. He was 87. Egypt's leading Islamic authority, the Grand Sheik of al-Azhar, Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, described Sharawi's death as a great loss to the whole Islamic world. Sharawi served as minister of religious endowments under President Sadat from 1976 to 1978. He gave a weekly religious lecture on Egyptian television which was popular particularly for the simple way in which he conveyed Islamic principles speaking in a colloquial dialect. *(AP)*

UN challenges Taleban ruling

Islamabad: The United Nations called for an emergency meeting with Afghanistan's Taleban religious army following its decision to close more than 100 private schools, many of them educating girls. "The closures will have a devastating impact on the welfare of many of the city's neediest people — particularly women and children," the UN said in a statement released in neighbouring Pakistan. Scores of small, home-based vocational training programmes are also to be shut. Many are run by international aid groups that teach girls and young women to weave carpets and sew. *(AP)*

Congo envoy breaks with Kabila

Brussels: The Democratic Republic of Congo's acting Ambassador to Belgium and the European Union has announced she is breaking with the regime of President Kabila. Justine M'Poyo Kasavubu, daughter of Joseph Kasavubu, a former Congolese President, claimed that a Kabila aide had drawn up "a Machiavellian plan ... aimed at implicating me in a plot against Etienne Tshisekedi [the opposition figure and former Prime Minister]". Ms Kasavubu was a long-standing opponent of Mobutu Sese Seko, the dictator ousted by Mr Kabila. *(AFP)*

Israel peace monument for Carter



Jerusalem: Jimmy Carter, right, was born too late to be immortalised on Mount Rushmore, but the former American President's image will soon be chiselled into a cliff in Israel's Negev Desert. The Nakash brothers, owners of the Jordache jeans company, plan to erect a monument to the signatories of the 1979 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt — Mr Carter, Menachem Begin, the former Israeli Prime Minister, and Anwar Sadat, the former Egyptian President. Avi Nakash said a £6 million park would be built around the monument near the grave of David Ben Gurion, the first Israeli Prime Minister. *(AP)*

Jakarta apology for Timor killing

Dili: The Indonesian military apologised for the death of an East Timorese youth and arrested a soldier accused of killing him. The apology came from Colonel Mudjino, deputy chief of the East Timor military command, as thousands of East Timorese demonstrated in the territory's capital, Dili, against the killing and demanded an investigation by the United Nations human rights commission. Herman das Dores Soares, 21, was shot near Manatuto, 63 miles from here, on Tuesday when he was collecting wood with his cousin. *(Reuters)*

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Serbia sends in tanks as Kosovo rebels advance



The battle for a mountain pass confirms Belgrade's intentions not to lose any more territory, **Tom Walker** in Dulje reports

THE Yugoslav Army and the Serbian police yesterday reinforced their positions on a mountain pass linking Prishtina, the Kosovo capital, with Prizren and the south of the province.

The heavy movement of tanks, armoured personnel carriers and artillery, combined with overnight attacks on Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) positions west of the Prizren road, confirmed the determination of President Milosevic of Yugoslavia that no security forces should be withdrawn until the guerrillas pull back.

Having seen Nato's readiness to deploy its forces, the Serbs are wary of beginning another offensive on the scale seen in the western Decane border region. But they have lost control of Kosovo's main east-west axis from Pristina to Pec, along with the northern route between Kosovo Mitrovica and Pec, and cannot afford to lose the main southern route to Prizren.

With the army openly deployed throughout the Dulje mountain pass, there is overwhelming evidence that its role in the conflict has been expanded far beyond ensuring border security. For this Mr Milosevic risks incurring the wrath of not only the Contact Group, but also that of the Montenegrin President, Milo Djukanovic, who has threatened to withdraw his republic's conscripts if the army becomes embroiled in fighting within Kosovo. It is clearly in the KLA's interests to provoke the Serbs while Belgrade dithers under the growing threat of Nato strikes.

The guerrillas have moved their front lines nearer the Prizren road over the past three days, and now KLA bunkers and trenches are encountered about half a mile from the highway, at both Dulje and the next town south, Suva Reka, where Serb sources said the KLA blew up a Serb-owned motel yesterday.

"The Serbs do not have a precise idea of what they are doing, nor of what they must do," said Ardijan Arifaj, a journalist with the Pristina daily *Koha Ditore*. "Milosevic continues to see Kosovo as a political instrument to hold on to power, and he can change his stance at any moment according to the situation."

The Serbs do not see these uneasy days of scattered skirmishes in the same light. "We are just being cautious, not wishing to provoke Nato," said Radovan Urosevic, director of the Pristina Media Centre. "There is no doubt that our state can handle affairs itself."

At the KLA Dulje checkpoint yesterday, a uniformed commander confirmed his men had come under automatic weapon fire during the night; but there was no sign of shelling, as had been alleged by Albanian sources in Pristina. Sources close to the guerrillas say that they hope Nato will soon be persuaded to declare a no-fly zone over Kosovo.

Further into KLA territory, in the rolling vineyards and upland pasture east of Malisevo, thousands attended a funeral for a guerrilla killed on Tuesday near Dulje. The KLA high command was supposedly in attendance, and 20 uniformed soldiers formed a guard of honour as three volleys were fired over the coffin, draped in the now familiar Albanian eagle and its blood-red background.



LOUISA GOULIAMAKI / EPA



An Albanian official checks passports of ethnic Albanians fleeing Kosovo yesterday before distributing blankets

Nato keeps up threat of force despite Milosevic pledge on talks

BY MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

NATO yesterday insisted that it would go ahead with preparations for possible airstrikes despite a promise by President Milosevic that he would reopen talks with ethnic Albanian leaders in Kosovo.

Nato officials underlined the West's suspicion of the commitment given to President Yeltsin in Moscow, saying that the Yugoslav leader did not have a "good track record" in keeping his promises. Nato said it would continue with the "full range of options" for Kosovo, including intervention.

Despite a tough European Union statement on Kosovo at the Cardiff summit, Mr Milosevic has now thrown the West into confusion and on to the defensive. He has conceded enough of the main demands — including a willingness to open political talks and to allow observers into the province — to undermine Western proposals to use force against him. But by holding out on the withdrawal of Yugoslav military units and refusing to talk to Albanian militants, he has increased the West's frustration.

Western analysts say that the big question in Kosovo, as in Iraq, is how far the West's strategic relationship with Russia extends. "Either you defy the Russians and do what you want to do, or you go along with Russia and find that you don't manage to do very much of what you want to do," said Jonathan Eyal, director of studies at the Royal United Services Institute. He said that Mr Milosevic realised early on that the Russians' support for Belgrade was not an issue of Slav solidarity, but rather a political tactic that could be switched on and off. The Yugoslav leader could not afford to defy the Russians, his only important ally. And he had to make more concessions to Contact Group demands because Moscow was in a weak position, in desperate need of Western economic help.

"The real question is, 'Why do the Russians like to play this game?'", Dr Eyal said. The answer was because they were determined that Nato should not be allowed complete freedom of action without a Russian say. This was why America was suspicious about calls for United Nations authorisation for any Nato action: Washington knows that this amounts to a Russian veto over action by the alliance.

The Yeltsin Government, and especially Yevgeni Primakov, the Foreign Minister, is determined not to give Russian nationalists any pretext for accusing it of kowtowing to the West. The dilemma for the West in Kosovo is what it can do to demonstrate that its policy is not just bluff. A full-scale air attack on Yugoslav installations in the wake of the concessions made in Moscow would provoke strong opposition.

The West has an incentive to include the Russians in any military and political pressure on Belgrade. And for this reason it is likely to put the military option on ice. But the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army has no interest in compromise and no intention of any let-up in the struggle for independence.

'Mercy pilot' held at Port Stanley

BY MICHAEL BINYON

OFFICIALS in the Falkland Islands yesterday decided to expel an Argentinian pilot who illegally flew a light aircraft into Mount Pleasant airport laden with 2,200 teabags, 80 oranges and 70 lb of flour.

RAF defences, on constant watch for invasion from Argentina, detected the incoming plane on Monday and scrambled fighters to bring the pilot, Ernesto Barcella, into the islands' military airport. He claimed to be on a humanitarian mission, but was arrested and questioned about his unauthorised flight.

A Falklands government spokesman said the pilot would be allowed to fly home as soon as the weather improved, provided that the Argentine authorities take action against him for violating air traffic control and air safety rules. Such an assurance has been given to the British Ambassador in Buenos Aires.

The spokesman said that the motives for the supposed mercy flight remained unclear. Even after three days of questioning, the only conclusion was that Señor Barcella's flight was "strange". Since the 1982 war no one travelling on an Argentine passport has been allowed to land on the islands.

The British garrison on the Falklands, which costs an estimated £67 million a year, is on constant watch for illegal intrusion into the islands' airspace, and servicemen frequently practise interceptions and training missions. Only rarely has any unauthorised flight been detected.

Señor Barcella, normally resident in California, took off from the airport in Comodoro Rivadavia in southern Argentina.

Bare-breasted Italian thief caught in a flash

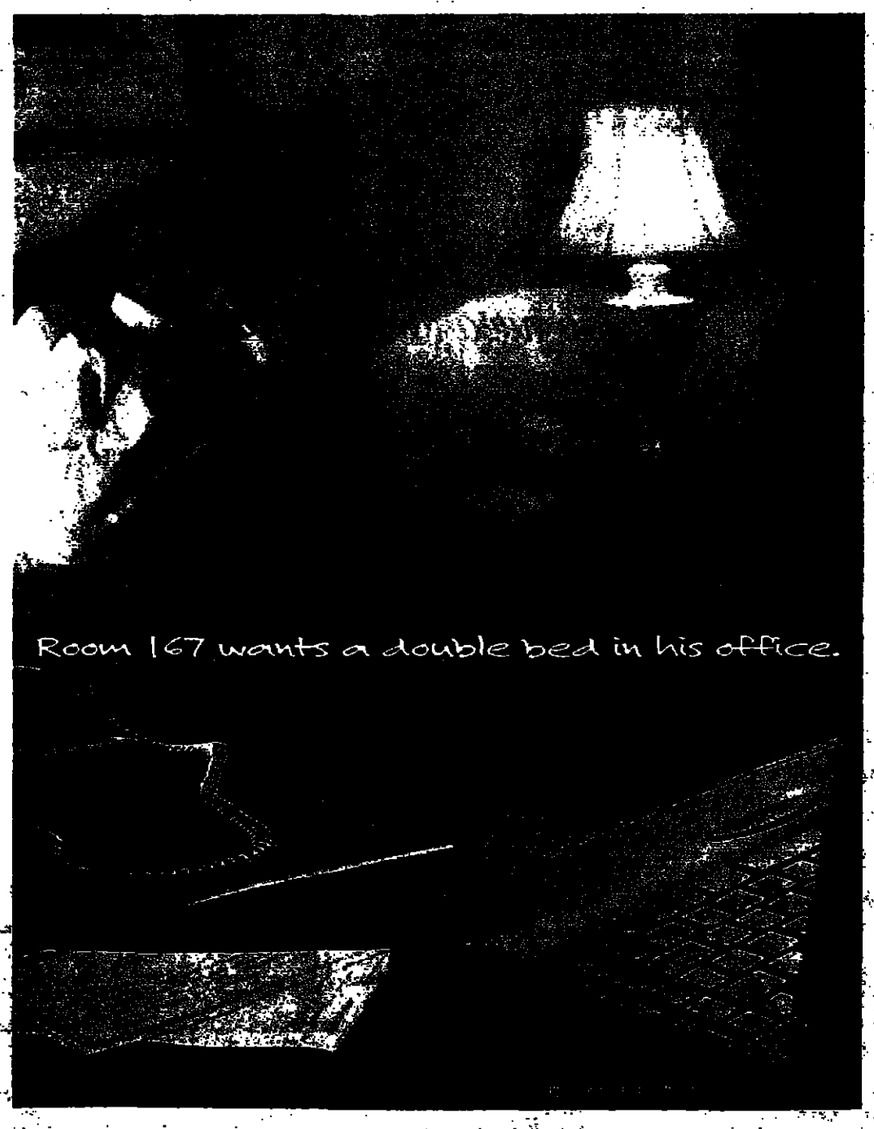
Rome: A woman trying to break into parked cars at a beach resort near Rome was identified and arrested partly because of a tattoo on her shoulder, but mainly because she was bare breasted (Richard Owen writes).

"We arrested her after sightings by numerous witnesses" police said at Ostia. Sabrina Finizio, 27, was jailed for two months and fined £200 for "attempted theft and obscene acts in a public place" after she was spotted — topless — repeatedly trying to force open car doors with a screwdriver. Police said Finizio had a string of convictions for petty offences.

When irate car owners gave chase, Finizio mingled with crowds on the beach, lying down on the sand among other topless female sunbathers. But she was singled out nonetheless. "It was a rather unusual kind of identity parade," a police spokesman said. "We had a good description of her curves, as well as of the tattoo".

Topless women bathers are a common sight on many Italian beaches, but there is a strict distinction between codes of dress on the beach and on the adjoining streets and in cafés and shops.

"Perhaps if the woman had stolen with her top on, nobody would have noticed," *Il Messaggero*, the Rome daily, said.

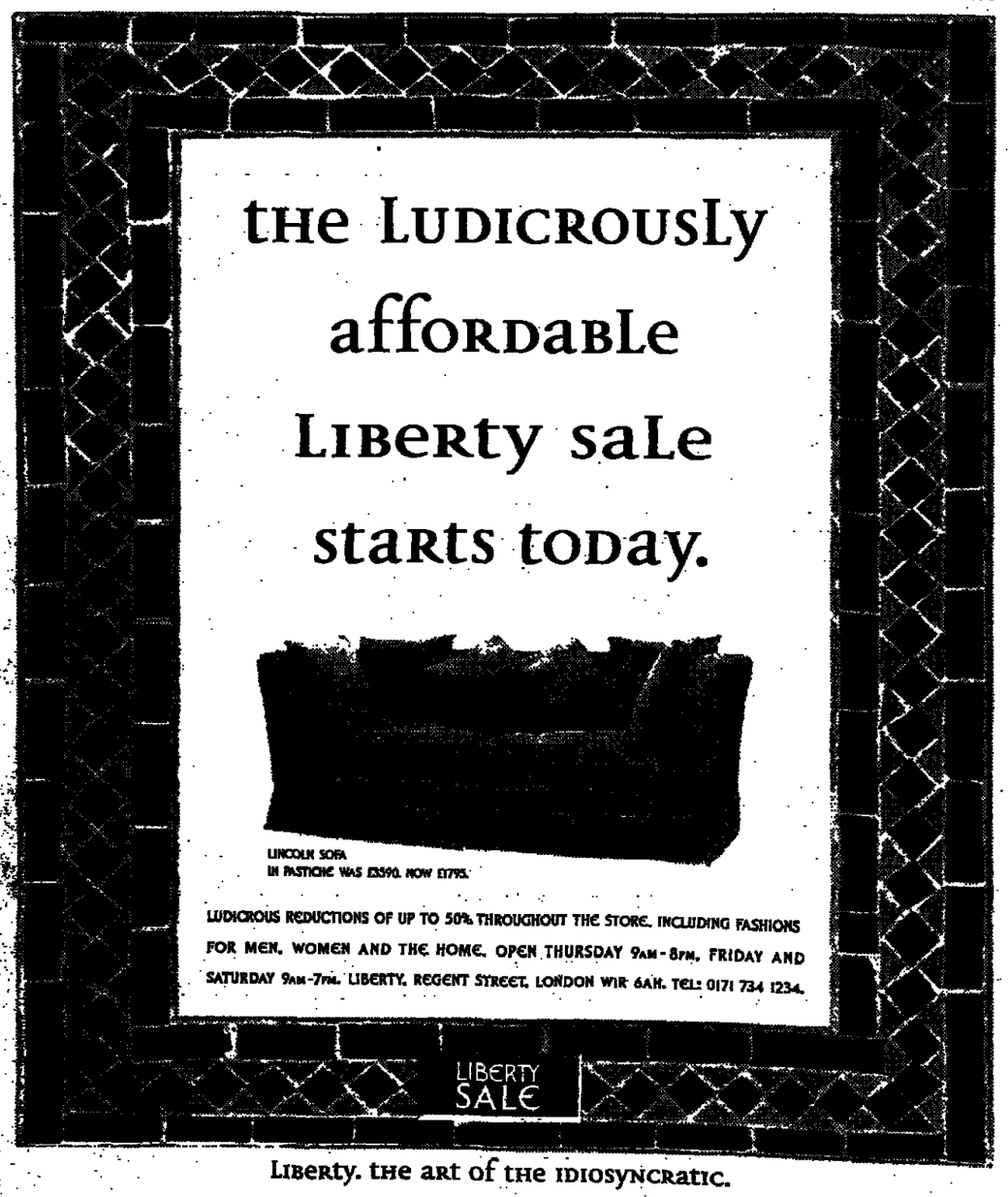


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LIBERTY. THE ART OF THE IDIOSYNCRATIC.

Klansmen to march in town of murdered black man

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

HOODED members of the Ku Klux Klan are to march through the east Texas town where a disabled black man was allegedly dragged to his death by three white racists.

In the latest exploitation of the death of James Byrd, 49, two factions of the white supremacist organisation will stage a "peaceful" demonstration outside the county courthouse in Jasper, the town near where he was murdered.

Byrd, a former vacuum cleaner salesman, was beaten semi-conscious before being chained to a pick-up truck and dragged for two miles along a road outside the town.

His head, part of his neck and right arm were ripped from his body during an incident with horrifying echoes of pre-civil rights days. His torso was dumped in a ditch.

Black and white leaders, including Jesse Jackson, the civil rights activist, and President Clinton have called for calm while demanding an inquiry. All, including the local sherriff, have said the killing was an isolated incident.

Since the arrest of three white men, at least two of whom are suspected of ties to the Klan and the Aryan Brotherhood, another supremacist group, the death has highlighted the issue of racism only a year after Mr Clinton declared he would heal a nation divided by race.

Members of the militant Black Panther movement, attending Mr Byrd's funeral last weekend, called for blacks throughout the United States to defend themselves against whites.

Now white extremists have decided to have thir say. The Klan requires no permit to march, and has said that it will come to Jasper on Saturday week to disavow any involvement in the murder.

"We will go in unarmed, pass out literature, give speeches and instil white pride back in Jasper," said Darrell Flinn, Imperial Wizard of the *Knights of the White Kamellia*, a faction based in the Klan bastion of Vidor, 60 miles to the south.

The 20 marchers are expected to wear the traditional white hoods and robes so long associated with the lynching and cross-burning of the past.

And, although the Klansmen have agreed not to utter any racist remarks during the rally, they are certain to provoke division in a community shattered by Byrd's murder.

"I don't want them coming here," said Sheriff Billy Rowles, who last week said he had no experience of organised racism by either the KKK or the Aryan Brotherhood in his county. "Hopefully no one in Jasper will come to their rally."

Jasper has a number of blacks in influential positions. *The mayor, the hospital administrator*, the superintendent of education and other political and civic leaders are black. *The country club has* black members.

But the region, birthplace to all three suspects, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry and John King, both 23, has a history of racism which has sometimes seemed almost like a recreation for hardline whites. In 1993 a group of supremacists from Vidor succeeded in driving several black people out of town.



Orson Welles starring in *Citizen Kane*, which he also directed. It was chosen from a shortlist of 400 as the top film of the century

Critics pan Hollywood list of top 100

A poll of the best US films is condemned for omitting classics, Giles Whittell writes

A LIST of the 100 greatest American films of all time, which was topped by *Citizen Kane*, *Casablanca* and *The Godfather*, has been condemned as flawed and overly commercial.

The American Film Institute's (AFI's) long-awaited Top 100 — intended as both a fundraiser and a celebration of a century of American cinema — was announced in a three-hour television epic that ignored Greta Garbo and Buster Keaton, but included homages to no fewer than five films by Steven Spielberg. They were chosen from a shortlist of 400 by 1,500 film luminaries whose names have not been released.

The remaining seven films in the AFI's top ten were *Gone with the Wind*, David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Graduate*, *On the Waterfront*, *Schindler's List and Singin' in the Rain*.

Tom Pollock, the institute's chairman, said in advance that film buffs would invariably disagree with some choices. He may not, however, have anticipated yesterday's storm of protest.

The list's omissions, which include all Fred Astaire's dance films as well as the timeless romantic comedies of Ernst Lubitsch and Preston Sturges, were denounced by the *Los Angeles Times* as a scandal. Kenneth Turan, the newspaper's influential film critic, wrote: "This is not the to-be-expected critical quibbling about this or that obscure favourite not getting its place in the sun. This is like making a list of the 100 best American novels and forgetting about Hemingway and Fitzgerald."

Bob Thomas, who has covered Hollywood for 50 years for Associated Press, lamented the absence of such classics as *Cabaret*, *Camille* and *Scarface*, and of all but four films from the silent era: "Whoever the voters were, they seem deficient in film history." In a similar project, the British Film Institute recently included 60 silent films in its list of the top 360.

To qualify, films had to have "significant creative and/or financial production elements from the United States", ruling out Laurence Olivier's Oscar-winning *Hamlet* of 1948. But British success in Hollywood over the decades was reflected in the inclusion of three Charlie Chaplin films, three by Lean and four by Alfred Hitchcock, including *Psycho* at number 18.

Sir Anthony Hopkins made the list in *Silence of the Lambs* (65), Peter Sellers in *Dr Strangelove* (26), Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* (55) and Olivier in *Wuthering Heights* (73) — all American-financed films.

The list is likely to be remembered largely as a marketing coup. With the re-release of all 100 films on video and fees of $2.3 million (£1.4 million) from each of six corporate sponsors of the broadcast, it represents a cash windfall for studios as well as the AFI. "It has no relation to great films, but is a promotion to sell videos," one critic complained.

President Clinton took part nonetheless. He called *High Noon* (33) his favourite film and its star, Gary Cooper, "the most realistic of all heroes". The Duchess of York was the most surprising pundit. She admitted watching *Braveheart* (unlisted) at least 16 times.

TOP 10 FILMS

The American Film Institute's Top 10 American movies of the last 100 years, in order of preference and including principal credits:

1. **Citizen Kane**, 1941, directed by Orson Welles, starring Orson Welles, Joseph Cotten.
2. **Casablanca**, 1942, directed by Michael Curtiz, starring Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman.
3. **The Godfather**, 1972, directed by Francis Ford Coppola, starring Marlon Brando, Al Pacino, James Caan.
4. **Gone With the Wind**, 1939, directed by Victor Fleming, starring Clark Gable, Vivien Leigh, Leslie Howard, Olivia de Havilland.
5. **Lawrence of Arabia**, 1962, directed by David Lean, starring Peter O'Toole, Alec Guinness, Omar Sharif.
6. **The Wizard of Oz**, 1939, directed by Victor Fleming, starring Judy Garland, Frank Morgan.
7. **The Graduate**, 1967, directed by Mike Nichols, starring Dustin Hoffman, Anne Bancroft, Katharine Ross.
8. **On the Waterfront**, 1954, directed by Elia Kazan, starring Marlon Brando, Karl Malden, Rod Steiger, Eva Marie Saint.
9. **Schindler's List**, 1993, directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Liam Neeson, Ralph Fiennes.
10. **Singin' in the Rain**, 1952, directed by Gene Kelly, Stanley Donen, starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, Donald O'Connor, Jean Hagen.

GOLDEN GREATS

11. It's a Wonderful Life, 1946
12. Sunset Boulevard, 1950
13. The Bridge on the River Kwai, 1957
14. Some Like It Hot, 1959
15. Star Wars, 1977
16. All About Eve, 1950
17. The African Queen, 1951
18. Psycho, 1960
19. Chinatown, 1974
20. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, 1975
21. The Grapes of Wrath, 1940
22. 2001: A Space Odyssey, 1968
23. The Maltese Falcon, 1941
24. Raging Bull, 1980
25. E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial, 1982
26. Dr Strangelove, 1964
27. Bonnie and Clyde, 1967
28. Apocalypse Now, 1979
29. Mr Smith Goes to Washington, 1939
30. The Treasure of the Sierra Madre, 1948
31. Annie Hall, 1977
32. The Godfather Part II, 1974
33. High Noon, 1952
34. To Kill a Mockingbird, 1962
35. It Happened One Night, 1934
36. Midnight Cowboy, 1969
37. The Best Years of Our Lives, 1946
38. Double Indemnity, 1944
39. Doctor Zhivago, 1965
40. North by Northwest, 1959
41. West Side Story, 1961
42. Rear Window, 1954
43. King Kong, 1933
44. The Birth of a Nation, 1915
45. A Streetcar Named Desire, 1951
46. A Clockwork Orange, 1971
47. Taxi Driver, 1976
48. Jaws, 1975
49. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, 1937
50. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, 1969
51. The Philadelphia Story, 1940
52. From Here to Eternity, 1953
53. Amadeus, 1984
54. All Quiet on the Western Front, 1930
55. The Sound of Music, 1965
56. M*A*S*H, 1970
57. The Third Man, 1949
58. Fantasia, 1940
59. Rebel Without a Cause, 1955
60. Raiders of the Lost Ark, 1981
61. Vertigo, 1958
62. Tootsie, 1982
63. Stagecoach, 1939
64. Close Encounters of the Third Kind, 1977
65. The Silence of the Lambs, 1991
66. Network, 1976
67. The Manchurian Candidate, 1962
68. An American in Paris, 1951
69. Shane, 1953
70. The French Connection, 1971
71. Forrest Gump, 1994
72. Ben-Hur, 1959
73. Wuthering Heights, 1939
74. The Gold Rush, 1925
75. Dances With Wolves, 1990
76. City Lights, 1931
77. American Graffiti, 1973
78. Rocky, 1976
79. The Deer Hunter, 1978
80. The Wild Bunch, 1969
81. Modern Times, 1936
82. Giant, 1956
83. Platoon, 1986
84. Fargo, 1996
85. Duck Soup, 1933
86. Mutiny on the Bounty, 1935
87. Frankenstein, 1931
88. Easy Rider, 1969
89. Patton, 1970
90. The Jazz Singer, 1927
91. My Fair Lady, 1964
92. A Place in the Sun, 1951
93. The Apartment, 1960
94. Goodfellas, 1990
95. Pulp Fiction, 1994
96. The Searchers, 1956
97. Bringing Up Baby, 1938
98. Unforgiven, 1992
99. Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, 1967
100. Yankee Doodle Dandy, 1942

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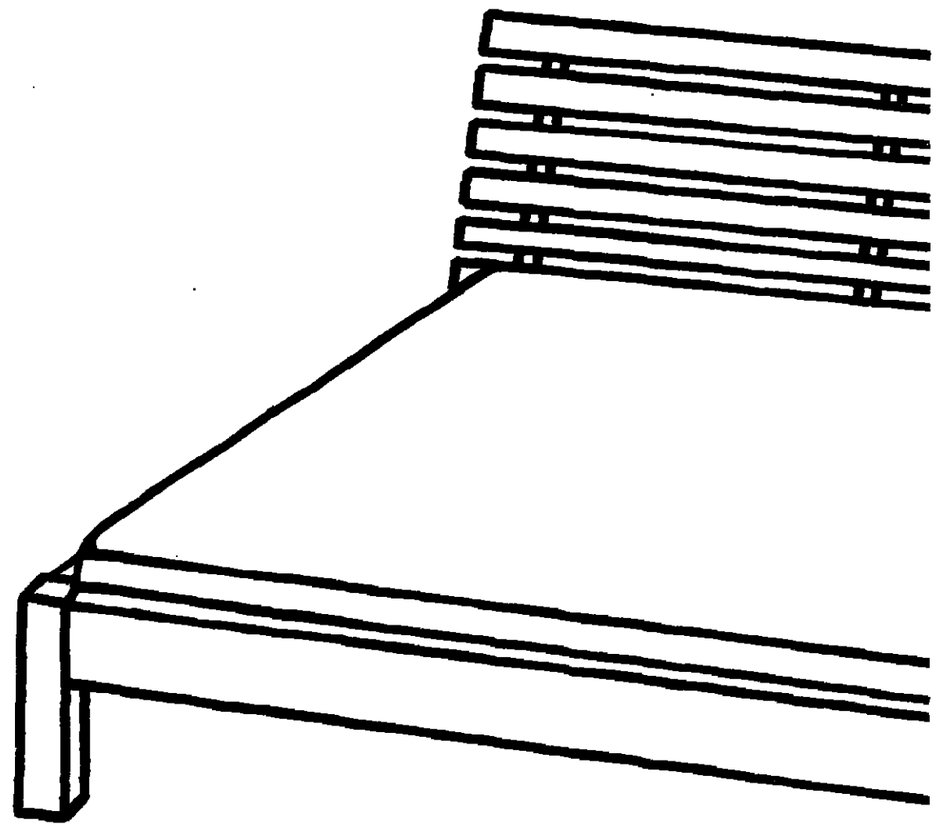
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Dr Thomas Stuttaford reports on the importance of neighbourhood pharmacies; oral cancers; CD-Roms on medical conditions; edible vaccines and ginko leaves and dementia

Why local chemists are best

One aspect of traditional medicine that has survived the changes of the past 50 years is the local chemist's shop. But, like the village doctor, postman, parson, shopkeeper and bus, it is under threat.

The neighbourhood chemist understands the idiosyncrasies of his customers and keeps track of their diseases through hearing their confidences and by analysing their prescriptions. Many patients feel alienated from a new doctor and later seek enlightenment at the chemist's. There are still 12,000 neighbourhood pharmacies in this country, but at least a quarter are endangered by supermarkets unable to provide personal service.

Pharmacists who know their customers may be the first to spot that something is amiss with their health. If the elderly man who has previously only bought *aspirin and sticking plaster* suddenly starts to work his way through the shop's indigestion medicines, alarm bells ring. Could the patient have an early cancer of the stomach or oesophagus? Likewise, if an older client who has never been known to buy anything more interesting than Alka-Seltzer regularly heads for the laxatives, the astute pharmacist will realise that he has an altered bowel action and needs attention.

Patients too shy to discuss what they think are bleeding piles may also have a confidential word with the approachable white-coated chemist, who fortunately is trained to understand the possible significance of rectal bleeding.

Gill Hawksworth runs an archetypal pharmacy service from the Old Bank Chemist in Mirfield, West Yorkshire. She knows her locals well, looks them firmly in the eye when they come to buy their cough mixture or bath salts and carries out a quick appraisal of their appearance. Three times in the recent past she has made an early diagnosis of skin cancer when the customer has come in asking for no more than a lotion to ease skin irritation. In each instance Mrs Hawksworth realised that they didn't need any of her creams and instead referred them immediately to the local doctor, who had the tumour surgically removed.

> Women owe more to chemists than any other group

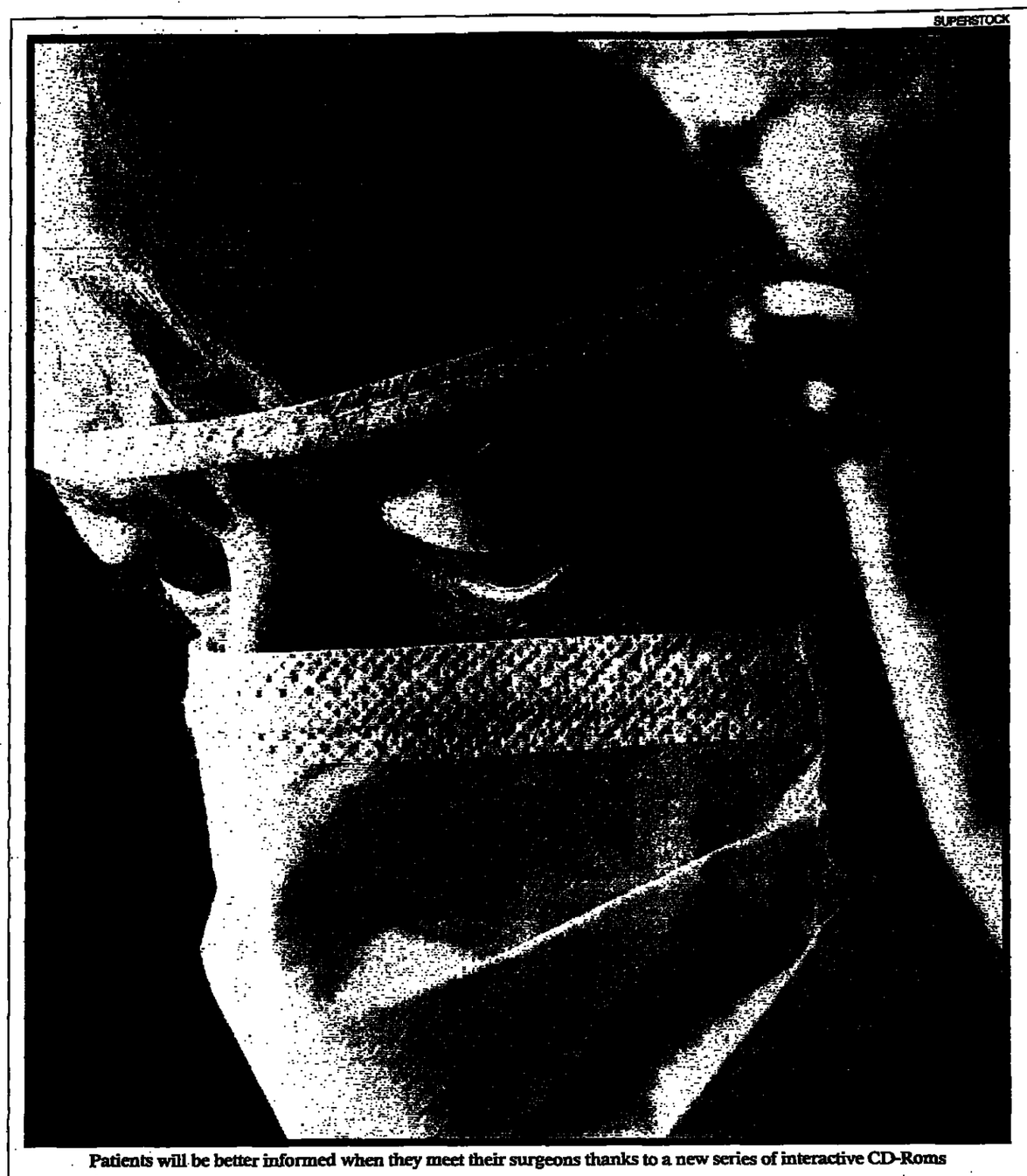
On other occasions Mrs Hawksworth has persuaded patients, who thought that their chronic diarrhoea was unimportant, that they *should* have treatment.

No group of patients owes more to such pharmacists than women. The world over, women tend to regard all irritant vaginal *discharges as thrush. Often* they are right, but occasionally, sometimes tragically, they are wrong. Mrs Hawksworth has diagnosed diabetes in a woman who complained of thrush, which is a common presenting sign of the illness. On other occasions she has realised that the patient didn't have thrush at all but an altogether more worrying cause of the discharge. These women have been tactfully sent to the doctor.

The diagnosis of thrush should be made only after *candida albicans*, the technical name for the yeast that causes it, has been identified on a microscope slide and cultured in the laboratory. As well as confirming the presence of persistent thrush, the doctor also needs to exclude all other causes of discharges. *Thrush is likely* to be a problem from time to time, in both sexes, through all the changing scenes of life, from the cot to the old person's home. It is of course most common in women of reproductive age, and random examination of women shows that one third are likely to have the organism in their vaginas at any one time. In most cases it is not present in sufficient quantities to cause any irritation or inflammation and is quite symptomless.

If it does cause problems, however, the doctor needs to ask why. The first *line of questioning is to deal with the* simple causes: are the woman's underclothes made of natural fibres? Does she have a penchant for jeans, exotic bubble baths, douches and scented soap?

If simple lifestyle changes do not correct the problem, it is time to go back to Mrs Hawksworth with a doctor's prescription for an anti-fungal preparation. Initially, this will be a cream or pessary; later, in resistant cases one of the very effective new medications taken by mouth may be needed.



SUPERSTOCK

Patients will be better informed when they meet their surgeons thanks to a new series of interactive CD-Roms

CD-Rom puts patients in the picture

MOST surgeons, however monosyllabic they may be by nature, are pleased if patients have a good knowledge of their disease, and of their underlying anatomy.

The Royal College of Surgeons, the British Association of Urological Surgeons and Merck, Sharp and Dohme, a pharmaceutical company, have co-operated in the production of what will be the first in a series of CD-Roms dealing with various medical conditions.

The interactive CD-Roms will help patients to understand the significance of their symptoms and will give them an understanding of the decisions the surgeon, with their contribution, needs to make.

The first CD-Rom has been prepared for men who have urinary tract symptoms. These *symptoms* could be the result of bladder stones, a urinary tract infection, prostate cancer, bladder cancer, prostatitis or benign prostatic hyperplasia, the benignly enlarged prostate of older age.

The information is presented as a dialogue between the patient and the surgeon. With the CD-Rom on a home computer, the patient will be able to prepare himself before he goes to the hospital or consulting room, so that when there he will be able to have an intelligent discussion.

The aim of the Royal College of Surgeons is to simplify and demystify medicine and to encourage shared clinical decision-making. This can be achieved only if patients are well informed, and have therefore been well briefed with the recent medical evidence.

The first of the CD-Roms is available free to all GPs and urological surgeons who, it is hoped, will lend it to their patients.

A visit to the dentist could prevent cancer

Readers of *The Times* who have been following the saga of columnist John Diamond's cancer will not have needed the recent advice of the British Dental Association to seek an early opinion if they notice any abnormal changes to their mouths, lips or tongue.

Dentists are trained to look at the mouth and tongue as well as the teeth, so regular visits to them should ensure that any ulcers, suspicious lumps or potentially malignant white or red patches on the inside of the cheeks, lips or tongue are detected early, investigated and treated. Diagnosing an oral malignancy before it has spread to the neighbouring lymphatic glands, which drain the area of the tumour, doubles the chance of achieving a complete cure.

John Diamond's writing in *The Times* and in his book, *C: Because Cowards Get Cancer Too*, has drawn attention to malignancies which are underrated as a cause of serious trouble. The death rate from oral cancers is now the same as that from cervical cancer in women.

Treatment, whether surgical, with radiotherapy or a combination of both, has improved enormously over the past few years. This improvement makes the case for early detection even stronger.

The likelihood of developing an oral cancer is twice as great if the person is male. A Scotsman has double the risk of being affected by a mouth cancer than does a Sassenach.

Most patients with mouth tumours are over 40, and many —but of course not all — smoke and drink too much. The combination of both activities is particularly dangerous. People who have already had a tumour in the mouth, throat, gullet or lung also need to take particular care and should have their mouths examined regularly.

In most patients the initial tumour grows comparatively slowly — which is, perhaps, why people often neglect it. The average person tolerates symptoms from an oral cancer for four or five months before seeking a consultation with their doctor or dentist.

Very occasionally, the tumour grows rapidly, so that sometimes, within a matter of weeks, it doubles in size every few days. In other cases, as with John Diamond, the first tangible evidence of underlying trouble is an enlarged gland in the neck. Symptoms vary, but pain is usually *the first sign of cancer* of the tongue and this pain often radiates to an ear. Others notice that the tongue seems stiff and cumbersome and generally different.



BBC

John Diamond: oral malignancies

Ulcers or tumours on the floor of the mouth usually draw attention to themselves by causing discomfort and irritation, but they may be asymptomatic.

Tumours growing inside the cheeks usually ulcerate. The ulcer, characteristically, does not heal and feels firm when rolled between the finger and thumb.

Oral cancers can occur anywhere in the mouth or on the lips, but they are most commonly found on the floor of the mouth, the underside of the edge of the tongue, on the soft *palate or, of course, on the lips.*

The golden rule is that any ulcer in the mouth that doesn't heal within a fortnight should be investigated.

However, people should also remember that the doctor and, more particularly, the dentist, is *able to detect pre-malignant changes* — whether white patches, leukoplakia or bright red velvety ones — erythroplakia — which can give a warning of trouble ahead.

Spuds hold cure for weak stomachs

THE Prince of Wales exempted medicine from his recent condemnation of genetic engineering. If the scientists working at Axis Genetics had been further ahead in their race to develop safe new vaccines from plants, Sandringham might have been spared the outbreak, a year or two ago, of the Norwalk virus, a major cause of water and food-borne gastro-enteritis.

Work on an oral vaccine against the virus is well advanced and it is hoped that by eating potatoes that contain recombinant Norwalk virus-like particles, the most susceptible people will be able to withstand a Christmas and New Year at Sandringham.

Dr Iain Cubitt, of Axis Genetics, said that travellers' diarrhoea, the E-coli infections that afflict tourists, may also be overcome by eating appropriately treated peeled potatoes before going abroad.

Scientists are also working on an edible vaccine against hepatitis B. The standard injections are expensive and compliance with the booster doses is poor. It is hoped that the oral vaccine will generate the specific antibodies needed for lifelong protection.

A tree with hidden powers

THE tree *Ginkgo biloba*, which has now been planted in urban avenues throughout the West, has been growing for 190 million years in its native China. Chinese doctors have used extracts from its leaves to treat chest problems and incontinence, but Western medicine is now beginning to discover that it has other powers.

A recent report in the American journal *JAMA* gave details of a randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre trial of *Ginkgo biloba* for the treatment of mild to severe dementia, the result of either Alzheimer's or multiple small strokes. Thirty-seven per cent of patients treated with ginkgo showed improvement, and in 27 per cent this improvement was appreciable. *Ginkgo biloba* has also been used in Germany where its efficacy in treating dementia was demonstrated in a trial that was reported in *Pharmacopsychiat* in 1996.

Doctors from the Department of Complementary Medicine at the Postgraduate Medical School at the University of Exeter suggest that it seems likely ginkgo's success is, in part, because it improves circulation, possibly by reducing the viscosity of blood. Ginkgo leaves are, however, also rich in antioxidant *flavonoids*, the organic substances found in many vegetables, fruits and red wine, which are effective against free radicals and beneficial to the cardiovascular system.

Ginkgo biloba tablets can be obtained from most chemists or health food shops. Fortunately, the research work published in *JAMA* showed that the side-effect profile of ginkgo was not significantly different from that of a placebo.

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JONATHON FURNISS

Jodie Kidd with Inca, who has achieved fame in his own right

The It Dog sweeps into high society

Cool dogs like to party, too. **Lucy Hawking** reports

The Czech Ambassador in London is well known for spoiling his guests, no matter how many feet they have. On Sunday, instead of decorating his front room with sumptuous piles of gold-wrapped chocs, Pavel Seister will put out bowls of water and plates of dog biscuits for his visitors.

The party is in honour of his 11-year-old schnauzer, Cutty, recently released from quarantine. Making his debut into society in front of London's most diplomatic dogs will propel Cutty firmly into It Dog status.

The It Dog has a fine pedigree. Although the Pekinese has, in recent times, been derided as the consort of penny novelists, it once nestled in the roomy sleeves of the emperors of China. From King Charles and his eponymous spaniels to the Queen and her devotion to corgis (such a common little dog, one would have thought), the link between Rover and royalty is long and honourable, if sometimes chequered. Anne Boleyn and Mary Tudor left little dogs to mourn them. Wallace Simpson may have lost the throne but kept her head, her jewellery and, most importantly, her cherished pug.

The modern It Dog, however, has rather different priorities from his aristocratic forebears. No longer yearning to be adopted by the monarch of the day (it hasn't done corgis much good, after all), the It Dog has gone avant garde and padded into the worlds of art, fashion and publishing.

Kenzo, leading It Dog and pet of Jane Procter, the Editor of *Tatler*, may no longer rampage around the offices but the glossy society bible does keep a water bowl and old teddy bear at its premises, should a passing dog drop in. The lift to *Vogue*, style magazine for the stylish, often holds a few doggies on their way up to greatness.

Canine influence is strong in the world of fashion. Alexander McQueen never uses materials reminiscent of his dog's coat,preferring to use ostrich, crocodile or horsehair. Valentino's pug has had a whole collection called after him, strange name that Oliver is for a set of expensive cocktail dresses.

Jodie. Kidd, the supermodel, takes her dog, Inca, on the razzle. Is he her best friend, or did the others get fed up with feeling fat in her company? Whichever, Inca has attained gossip column fame in his own right by starting a fight with Liam Gallagher. How very New Laddish of him. Perhaps next he'll be seen drinking with Chris Evans and Gazza.

Literary life has a pooch or two, should that be the direction that Cutty wishes to move. The novelist Emma Tennant's dog stands out as the wild element of the pack, with a reputation for savaging academics at literary festivals, while David Hockney's recent studies of his dachshunds gives dogs in art a contemporary edge.

The poodles of Paris have had their day: breed no longer matters. But uniqueness does. Think of Cruella de Ville and her dalmatians — we all know her name but who remembers what the doggies were called? No, the It Dog moves alone.

It Dogs have long ruled New York, peering out of Prada handbags, comforting the feet of the great under their desks or making friends for their owners in Central Park. The doggie industry in the Big Apple, from grooming to psychiatry to canine fortune-telling, bears testimony to the role in society that the It Dog has gnawed for itself. If this is a fad, then it is a well-deserved one. From the faithful hound lying at a knight's feet to Greyfriars Bobby, sitting on his master's grave for years after his death, the dog has proved his fidelity and his love. Dogs as companions have been shown to reduce stress, and this only endears them more to frazzled workers. Their level of devotion and constant need for human affection win hearts in the way people often fail to.

Anyway, the It Dog is a sensible concept when compared with some of the others. It Girls are too thin and too rich to really strike a chord with the overworked and underpaid. The It Cat? Hardly. To be an It Anything requires a mass of invitations and who on earth would give a party for a cat? The rotten thing wouldn't even bother to turn up.

The men with designs on your bra

Sally Morris reports on a radical move to make comfort as important as uplift

If you're a woman, the chances are that you're reading this wearing a bra that doesn't fit, a bra that you haven't been measured for and a bra that isn't very comfortable.

Gone are the days when burning your bra was a symbol of liberation. Now we are sculpted into our corsetry, pushed together and upwards by a structure of wire, elastic and padding that attempts to transform our highly individual breasts into a uniformly rounded shape.

The search for a bra that fits is never-ending. Breasts change with age, with weight, after childbirth and even during the monthly cycles. This is why the challenge of redesigning the garment so appealed to the industrial design specialists Richard Seymour and Dick Powell, who suggested a radical rethink to the lingerie manufacturer Charnos.

The partners, whose innovations include the cordless kettle, hoped that their track record, combined with Charnos's underwear expertise, could revolutionise the architecture of the bra.

Powell had his doubts but was won round by Seymour. "I was against doing a bra," Powell says, "partly because it might be seen as frivolous, but also because I doubted our abilities to do anything good with it. I thought the design was so deeply entrenched in fashion ethos that it would be very difficult to change it. Richard persuaded me to look at it as a piece of body machinery, something that had a job to do and had to adapt to a moving human body."

Powell's reluctance was not unfounded. The lingerie industry is well-established, selling more than 60 million bras each year in Britain, in a market worth half a billion pounds. The marketing of the modern bra relies heavily on sexual imagery rather than comfort, on the sort of provocative, pouting push-up that has made Eva Herzigova a household figure. You would have to be a brave man to announce that you had a better idea.

For the manufacturers, the problem is that women's body shapes are changing. As if in answer to an adolescent boy's prayer, breasts are getting bigger: since the 1950s the average size has increased from a 34B to a 36C, and nearly 50 per cent of bras are for a D cup or above. With the present range of sizes on general sale, researchers from Nottingham University estimate that only 10 per cent of women are properly fitted.

Designing sturdy bras to cope with the stress of bigger breasts, while satisfying the taste for alluring style, is taxing enough for manufacturers without the added cost of having to extend the size range.

Even if the range offered were doubled it would fit only 50 per cent of women, and if the range were to be trebled it would still fit only 75 per cent of the market. There need to be 60 different sizes for each bra style to cover the full range of wearers — and nobody could afford to either produce or stock such a selection.

Which is why Powell, 47, and Seymour, 45, had a clear brief: to come up with a basic design for bigger bras that would make them simpler, more flexible and more comfortable than the existing structure. And to do this under the glare and time constraints of being filmed for a Channel 4 television programme.

At their converted chapel studios, tucked away behind West London's featureless North End Road, the shelves are crowded with chrome taps, hair dryers, toasters and motorbike models, all of which represent a triumph over entrenched ideas. Powell and Seymour produce "things" that are visually attractive but overwhelmingly practical. Things, Powell says, that make people's lives better.

But the bra was their first foray into the fashion world. And, as men, the garment had clearly not been an essential part of their daily attire.

"That didn't really worry us," Powell says. "We came to it without preconceived ideas and we asked basic questions about what women wanted. I think sometimes starting from a point of little knowledge can be an advantage."

They were shocked, however, by just how little progress has been made in the past 50 years in adapting to what women need. "I find it utterly ridiculous that underwear is designed to be washed by hand, because machine washing can detach the wire which will either ruin the bra or your machine. Of course women put them through the machine anyway, so one of the major concerns was to design something that could be washed without damage.

"I also couldn't understand why a bra fastens at the back. You have to be a contortionist to do it up. We tried to develop a front fastening style that would appeal, but we just seemed to go up a blind alley on that.

"It was also essential from a manufacturer's point of view to come up with fewer components — there can be up to 52 separate pieces in a conventional bra. And we needed a design that would minimise the number of different sizes needed to cover the range of breast shapes and sizes."

By now, Seymour and Powell had scented a challenge unlike any other they had encountered. The key, they decided, was to replace the traditional wire with a plastic support, encased in a softer plastic cover that would extend to the underarm area, where many women feel their flesh is squeezed out. This polycarbon material would be washable and flexible enough to adapt to different sizes.

The research took them to a construction engineering specialist, to the Paris lingerie show, and ultimately to the Adidas research centre in Nuremberg where experts test flexible moulded materials to be used in sports shoes. They also had unstinting help from Loen, a lingerie model who allowed them unprecedented access to her ample bosom while she cracked raucous jokes.

Eventually they came up with the Bioform, a bra design template that fits all the requirements of support, comfort and washability, and can adapt across three sizes at once. What they needed then was the expertise of Charnos designers to turn it into a sexy, attractive garment. The result, to their relief, was a winner, even by Loen's exacting standards.

"I think it took us about five months and although we tried to smile at the end of the television programme, we were ragged and exhausted," admits Powell.

The programme is one of three. In the other two the partners redesign the lavatory and the car. "The original premise was that we would be steering the companies in the right direction but with the Bioform we ended up doing more hands-on work ourselves because we were so enthusiastic. In the end it was a case of trying to stop us."

Although they have come up with a new and attractive design, a prototype is a long way from commercial success. The stage they have reached is what Seymour calls "the end of the beginning. We have come up with a design and material that work but now we have to make this suitable for mass production, to get it into the marketplace."

The only payment the designers have received so far is from the television company for their participation. If they are to receive more recompense, they will need to take the design further.

So has it been worth it? They think so.

"The aim of doing the series was to demystify the design process," Seymour says. "We think it is highly skilled, and that more people should understand what is involved. If you think this was hard work, with a supportive company backing us, you should watch what happened when we tried to redesign the lavatory . . ."

● *Designs on Your . . . starts next Wednesday at 9pm on Channel 4*

CHRIS HARRIS



Dick Powell, left, and Richard Seymour with the Bioform, which could revolutionise bra design. "We asked basic questions about what women want"

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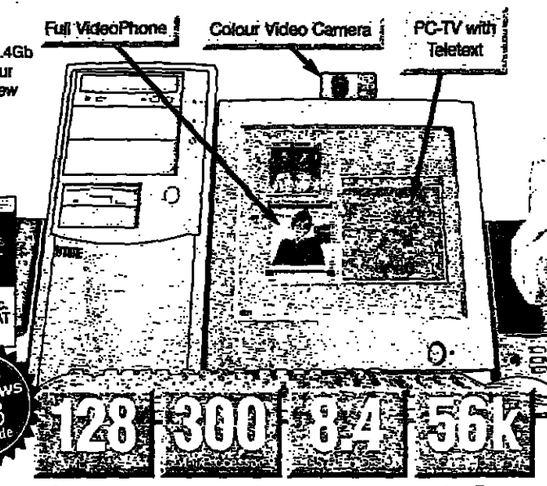
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Darling, your job is slipping

Mary Ann Sieghart on Blair's Cabinet reshuffle headaches

It is a nice political irony that the most junior member of the Cabinet, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, is the one to whom all the others, apart from the Prime Minister and the Chancellor, have to kowtow. Whatever wizard schemes ministers have, however grand their strategy, they cannot do what they want in their departments unless the Chief Secretary gives them the money. And, like Margaret Thatcher in Europe, his natural inclination has to be to say "no, no, no".

Harold Wilson created the job in 1964 for Jack Diamond, and by 1968 had promoted him to the Cabinet. Now, though, after three decades at the top table, the Chief Secretary post may be demoted. It is a little-noticed consequence of Gordon Brown's new economic policy, which all but abolished the annual spending round. The yearly haggle with the Chief Secretary has been replaced by a three-year settlement. So Alistair Darling has hardly anything to do between now and the next election.

This is a great opportunity for Tony Blair. He could drop the Chief Secretary from Cabinet again, and create a new, more useful Cabinet post. We already know that he plans to demote transport from the Cabinet to make way for a Minister for Women. But the other new job that Mr Blair wants — a party chairman — was going to have to wait until the Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland Secretaries left Cabinet after devolution. Now he can bring it forward to next month's reshuffle.

Without a beard, he now has telegenic good looks

But Mr Blair will not want to lose Mr Darling from the Cabinet. He has a good head for figures, sound new Labour views and, now that he has shaved off his beard, telegenic good looks, too. The trouble is, he is yet another Scot.

From the start of the Blair administration, there have been grumblings about the over-representation of Scots in the Government. If you include Mr Blair himself, who was born and partly educated in Edinburgh, the four top jobs — Prime Minister, Lord Chancellor, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Foreign Secretary — are held by Scots.

But what fewer have noticed is that there is about to be a squeeze on the posts a Scot can hold. There has always been an understanding that a Scottish MP should not be Education Secretary, since Scottish education is run differently. But, now that so many powers are being given to the Scottish parliament, the number of departments with UK-wide responsibilities is shrinking.

The two obvious ones, the Foreign Office and the Treasury, are already held by Scots, one of whom has a virtually guaranteed tenure. What is left? Defence, Trade and Industry (up to a point), Agriculture, International Development, Culture and (oddly) Northern Ireland. That's it.

Defence is already held by a capable Scot — George Robertson — with another, John Reid, snapping at his heels. International Development needs ideally to be run by a radical, compassionate woman, which it is. Clare Short is perfect in that job and, like Robin Cook, is usefully out of the country for much of the time. Jack Cunningham looks vulnerable at Agriculture, but Mr Darling represents a wholly urban constituency and has a profound distate for the profligate way in which the State subsidises farmers. This could, of course, be an advantage, but Mr Darling would be an uncomfortable Agriculture Minister.

The DTI might be suitable for him, and Margaret Beckett could be sent to lead the House instead. Alternatively he could, perhaps, replace Chris Smith at Culture: a doctorate in Romantic poetry is not a necessary qualification for that job. But most people seem to think that he ought to go to Social Security to oversee welfare reform.

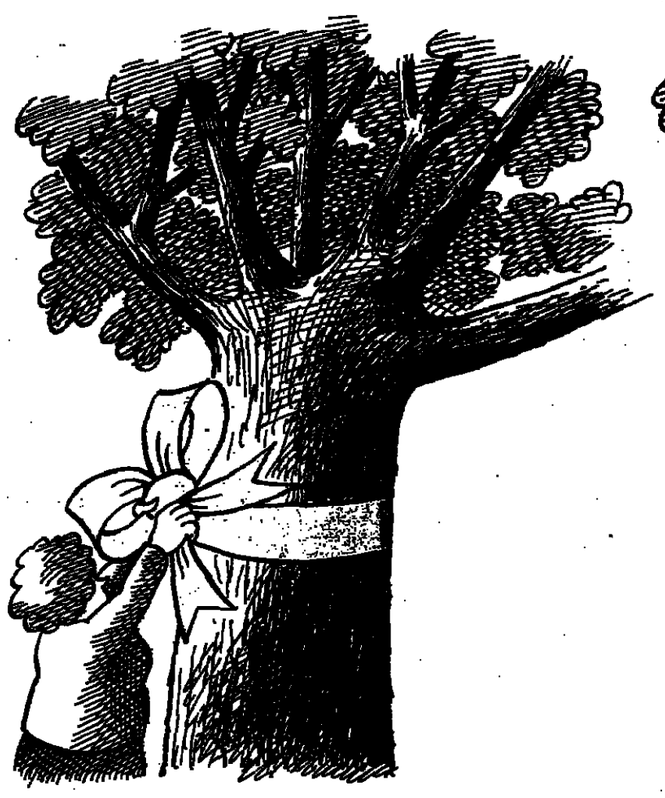
It is easy to see why. Mr Darling is intelligent, competent and capable of grasping the horrendous complexities involved. In fact, he is already doing so: the Treasury has virtually taken over the job of pension reform from the DSS. But, politically, such a move could be disastrous.

Welfare reform will be the most difficult, unpopular and potentially divisive issue of this Parliament. So there are two choices. The Prime Minister can either ram it through, relying on his huge majority, leaving a bitter parliamentary party and a mutinous party in the country. Alternatively, he can try to persuade his MPs and activists that reform is consistent with the very old Labour values of working-class pride, self-reliance and honesty.

That conversion cannot be achieved by public-school-educated imports to Labour such as Mr Darling (Loretto), Harriet Harman (St Paul's) or Mr Blair (Fettes). They will always be distrusted by the Left. The only hope is to find someone with entrenched working-class roots. There is one man in the Cabinet who has all the right qualities: he has known poverty and deprivation, he lost his father in a dreadful industrial accident, he comes from the Left, and he conquered his own disability. Who better to sell welfare reform than David Blunkett?

Mr Darling should not be disappointed not to win Social Security. Whoever does will have to expend large quantities of political goodwill — and Mr Blunkett, along with John Prescott, is one of the few ministers who has enough to be able to afford to.

So why not make Mr Darling party chairman? He is smooth, articulate and reliable enough to be the Government's defender on *Newsnight* and the *Today* programme. And there would, after all, be a rather neat symmetry in replacing himself at the Cabinet table.





Britain isn't managing

Never mind the hooligans — the true scandal is our falling productivity

Anatole Kaletsky

Forget the football hooligans in Marseilles. The people who are really letting Britain down and holding us all up to international derision are the chairman of your Rotary Club and the president of the local chamber of commerce. This may seem a contentious statement, especially if you have recently had a G and T with one of these charming gents. Indeed, one of the first responses to yesterday's grim statistics came from the President of the British Chambers of Commerce, who declared that he was tired of "nannying" comments from the Government about the failure of British businessmen to control their costs.

Since I agree totally with the Government, and disagree with the representatives of the business community, I am afraid that this article will contain rather more facts and figures than is customary on this page. I would not want to be accused of unfairness to the business community, especially since many of its members are *Times* readers.

However, the truth should be told about the way that Britain is being betrayed by the managers and entrepreneurs who were the prime beneficiaries of the Thatcher revolution. Perhaps the figures presented below may even cause businessmen a pang of embarrassment. If so, good — it was, after all, they who demanded, and were given, "the right to manage". The union monopolies were broken, taxes were cut, markets were deregulated and inflation conquered. So if Britain is still performing abysmally by international standards — and if the main focus of underperformance is exactly the area for which business managers are responsible — it seems reasonable to hold them to account.

So let us begin with yesterday's statistics. The headlines in yesterday's news and the parliamentary exchanges at Prime Minister's question time mostly focused on the first small increase in monthly unemployment for more than two years. There was also some discussion about the disturbing implications for interest rates of accelerating wage inflation.

For a fuller picture, however, it is necessary to delve a little deeper into the figures. And this is where the bill of indictment against the business community begins. The really shocking news to emerge yesterday is not about jobs or inflation, but about something rarely mentioned in the news though much more important than either — productivity growth.

Productivity growth is an economic shorthand for all the improvements in efficiency, technology, product design and customer service, whose advancement is the principal responsibility of management. And yesterday's statistics demonstrate that, on the whole, management has completely failed in this central task.

The reason why productivity is all-important can be looked at in two ways. Firstly, the amount of output produced by the average worker essentially determines the growth of the national cake, which can then be divided up according to the dictates of politics, ethics or, of course, market forces. How this cake should be shared, between workers and shareholders, between young people and pensioners, between private and public endeavours, is the stuff of most political and economic debate, but unless the cake is growing there is nothing worth discussing. And once a country has reached more or less full employment, it is only by increasing productivity that the national cake can continue to grow.

To look at the issue from another perspective, productivity determines what pay increases a country can afford. There is nothing wrong with rapidly rising wages if they are matched, at the national average level, by equally rapid productivity growth. If, however, wages rise far above average productivity growth, as they have in Britain, the inevitable result will be rising inflation, declining international competitiveness and ultimately an economic collapse.

And the news in yesterday's statistics was that for Britain, in sharp contrast to every other important economy in Europe or America, productivity is not growing at all. To be more precise, the productivity of Britain's average manufacturing worker was actually 0.9 per cent lower in April than it was a year earlier — and preliminary indications are that the service industries are not doing much better. Unless this trend is quickly reversed, the national cake will soon stop growing completely.

Even before this happens, Britain will face a more urgent problem. Despite their falling productivity, Britain's manufacturers have granted their workers average pay increases of 5.6 per cent in the past year. The consequence has been an increase of more than 6 per cent in unit costs. Yet, during the same period, productivity has shot ahead in every other industrialised country, with Germany and France both gaining more than 7 per cent in 1997, while wages growth in every other country has been remarkably restrained. The net result has been that, while British costs have risen by 5.6 per cent, the costs of our international competitors have *fallen* almost as steeply — by 5.8 per cent in Germany, 3.6 per cent in France and 0.9 per cent in the United States.

To put it another way, British industry has imposed on itself a huge competitive disadvantage. This loss of competitiveness, representing more than 12 per cent to British firms facing competitors from Germany, has had nothing to do with the normal excuses put forward by the British business community — the Bank of England's monetary policy, the Government's allegedly lax budgets and the consequent strong pound.

Some apologists claim that British industry's productivity shortfalls are not caused by mismanagement, but can be blamed indirectly on Government policy and the strong pound. With British goods becoming ever more expensive in foreign markets and exports falling, they argue, it has been impossible to invest in new technology, improve industrial processes and keep pushing productivity up.

This is just specious buck-passing, as is demonstrated by figures in the World Economic Outlook published by the International Monetary Fund last month. These figures showed that productivity in Germany, France and Japan has accelerated in the past five years, even when these economies were hit by overly strong exchange rates and mired in recessions. The IMF also showed that the decline in British productivity growth did not begin in 1997, when sterling strengthened. The damage was done as far back as 1995, when the pound fell to its weakest point and productivity growth simultaneously collapsed from 5.2 per cent to 0.8 per cent.

In other words, while manufacturers in other countries were spurred by strong currencies and hard times to tighten their belts, improve their efficiency and redouble their productivity performance, British businesses responded in exactly the opposite way. Showered with the windfall profits from sterling's devaluation after White Wednesday, they loosened their belts. Their efficiency slackened. They stopped worrying about productivity. And instead of investing in new technology or better products, they paid out their devaluation windfalls in higher dividends and higher wages, keeping both shareholders and workers content and thereby assuring themselves of a quiet life.

If the pincer movement of falling productivity and rising wages continues much longer, large parts of British industry will, indeed, be put out of business and the country will fall back into deep recession, as the Jeremiahs have warned. This will not, however, be the fault of the high pound, the Government or the Bank of England. The culprits will be the complacent or incompetent managers who have failed to achieve internationally competitive levels of efficiency and productivity growth.

In sum, Britain's abysmal productivity performance stands out in all the international statistics as embarrassingly as do the football hooligans in the streets of Marseilles — and the national damage done by bad managers is certainly far graver than damage done by the louts.

Britain may still have its football louts, but the Thatcher revolution largely succeeded by frightening, humiliating, squeezing and ultimately re-educating an atavistic and complacent British working class. Perhaps it is time for Labour to consider a similar service for Britain's complacent business community.

Lead on, Sir Malcolm

Scots Tories should break loose, says Magnus Linklater

The name of Andrew Fletcher of Saltoun is not one that looms large in English history books. Nor is he often quoted these days, certainly not by members of the Conservative party. An 18th-century republican, Scottish patriot, and early proponent of federalism, he was so hostile to the Union of England and Scotland that after the Act which introduced it in 1707 he rode to London, announcing that henceforth Scotland "was only fit for the slaves who sold it".

So to find him being referred to approvingly by Sir Malcolm Rifkind, former Foreign Secretary and staunch Unionist, is intriguing, not to say downright subversive. In a speech to be delivered tomorrow on what, by merest coincidence, is the anniversary of William Hague's accession to the Tory leadership, Sir Malcolm will set out ideas not only for the future government of Scotland, but, more pertinently, for England as well. They suggest that a man whose career as politician and statesman was brought to a shuddering halt last May, is ready to return to the fray. The only question is where — Westminster or Edinburgh?

I imagine the attraction of a man like Fletcher for a man like Rifkind is that he was a patriot and a pragmatist. He opposed the monarchy because he thought it was more concerned with its own preservation than the good of the country, and the Union because he considered it was undemocratic and would undermine Scotland's independent economy. He understood the West Lothian question nearly 300 years before the term was coined, and suggested that one way round the problem of MPs voting in the Commons on matters that did not concern them would be to have 12 centres of regional government, from London to Inverness, because "so many centres of men, riches and power, would be much more advantageous than one". He would have felt immediately at home in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Rifkind, I hasten to say, is neither a federalist nor a republican. But I am sure he admires Fletcher's honesty in addressing both the demands of democracy and the practicalities of government. He has, for a Tory, embraced the idea of devolution and sought to tackle head-on some of the challenges it raises. Some of these, despite the progress of the Scotland Bill, have still not been properly faced: for instance, how do you deal with purely English matters at Westminster after devolution? What happens to the Cabinet role of the Scottish Secretary? How do you head off the threat of nationalism?

In addressing them, he is proposing solutions that are well in advance, not just of his fellow-Conservatives in Scotland, but even the Labour Party. At a time when his own party is struggling to stage its own revival, both north and south of the border, this is a novel tactic. Instead of trying to slow the pace of reform — the traditional Conservative response to change — he is proposing ways by which it can be speeded up.

Were I a hardened political correspondent, I would doubtless be speculating whether all this was a leadership bid, aimed perhaps at the fragile period immediately after the next election. Re-elected to Westminster, with Hague knocked back by another poor result, the elder statesman Rifkind, untarnished by the bickering among more obvious contenders, might well be a tempting proposition. He is 52 this weekend, so at 56 or so would still be more statesman than elder when the time came. All he has to do is sit back, nurse the party as its president in Scotland in a patrician manner, then step forward to proffer himself next time around.

But let me offer a bolder course of action — I will call it the Fletcher of Saltoun approach because it is Scottish, patriotic and principled. Almost alone among senior Tories, Rifkind is a devolutionist from way back. He may have changed coats under Mrs Thatcher, but the tell-tale spots are still there, as tomorrow's speech will show. This is not just a matter of expediency for him — he really believes in it; he also believes it must be made to work. As election time approaches in Scotland, his pragmatic approach will become an increasingly attractive proposition, enough for the party to regroup around and even win back some lost seats. Some 17 per cent of the Scottish electorate voted Conservative last time. They need a leader.

Sir Malcolm should change his mind about not standing for a Scottish Parliament (I've checked with party headquarters and it's not too late). He would gain enormous kudos in Scotland, where he is still widely admired, and, under proportional representation, he would almost certainly get in. Once there, as a recognised international figure, he could represent Scotland on a broader stage as well as speaking up for better forms of government within the new chamber. Far from precluding a leadership bid, it could positively enhance its prospects. Was it not the Prime Minister of Bavaria, Franz Josef Strauss, who went on to stand for the German Chancellorship? That, of course, was under a federal system . . .

Wild schemes

JOHN MAJOR has been taking soundings about lupins and bluebells from the Prince of Wales. The former PM, inspired by the Prince's beautiful meadow at Highgrove, plans to turn over a corner of his rather more compact garden in Huntingdon to wildflowers. Hitherto, Major's horticultural tastes have been a little less, well, stately. While he has never shared his father's affection for garden gnomes, he has favoured fish ponds and rock pools. Major has been telling friends that he has consulted some of the "highest authorities in the land", understood to mean the Prince.

Major grew to like Charles during his premiership, acting as honest broker between him and Diana, Princess of Wales, during their divorce. After Diana's death, he became guardian to the young Princes, William and Harry, a role he takes seriously.

The Prince of Wales is responsible for the fashionability of wildflower meadows, having taken advice from Miriam Rothschild, that tall poppy in greenhouse circles. She has also contributed to the Majors' new *grand projet* by sending them packets of wildflower seeds. "Charles talks to John regularly," says a friend. "When he was PM, John didn't have time for his garden. During the last month of his premiership, he and Norma would plan what they might do in the garden, looking forward to the future."





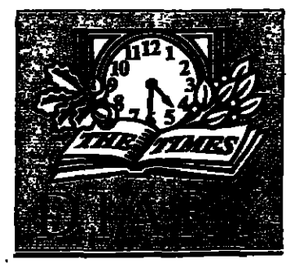
● *TONY BANKS has been lobbying hard for us to hold the World Cup in 2006. "It was in the manifesto," he said recently to general approval. "And knowing the Prime Minister, we will carry out what we said we would do." It would seem, though, that his view has developed rather. On December 4, 1996, our Tony put his name to the following: "This House believes the claim by an African nation to be superior to that of any European country staging the competition yet again; and further believes that the 2006 World Cup should be held in South Africa." "Of course I remember putting down that early day motion," he tells me. "But at that time England hadn't bid." Just so.*

Doghouse

A HOTELIER has infuriated Battersea Dogs Home by promising celebrity guests that they can borrow mutts from the home for afternoon scampers across Hyde Park. Sally Bulloch, society stalwart and manager of the Athenaeum, hoped to please dogless visitors, who, like Chris Patten, are victims of our quarantine laws.

"No one asked us about this," it yaps. "It is hardly fair to treat the dogs as a celebrity accessory by taking them for a walk and then slamming them back in a cage." The home has complained to the hotel, where Hollywood types such as Michael Douglas and Albert Finney stay when they swing by London. Sally is so contrite that she has agreed to go down on her knees to clean the kennels. "I heard that the home needed help and assumed wrongly that this would be a good way," she says. "I will do anything to make amends as long as I don't have to take in a dog."

● *THE vicar should have been wary when he agreed to take tea at*



the home of his parishoner, a Mr Ozzy Osbourne, of the rock band Black Sabbath. The cake, it transpired, was more suited to the constitution of a rocker than a reverend. "The vicar turned green and went down like a one-legged parrot," boasts the moronic Osbourne, who once munched bats on stage. It is a tribute to the vicar that he felt the wretch was worth saving.

Price of Fame

SIR Paul McCartney has had to dip into his deep pocket to bail out the Fame School he helped to set up on the site of his old grammar school. McCartney has quietly donated £1 million to the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts after it ran up alarming £6 million debts. This follows the £1.2 million he gave the school when it opened two years ago. He raised the rest with a little help from his well-placed friends. This included touching Tony Blair for a large chunk when he popped into Chequers. "We now have the money to be in charge of our own destiny," say the school. More worrying still.

● *LORD Newton of Braintree, the former Leader of the House who lost his seat, has now suffered the indignity of being rejected to stand for the European Parliament by the Tories of the Eastern Region. Still, his old colleague Michael Howard must be sympathetic? "I am delighted our new democratic selection process has proved so successful," Howard trills.*

Hang free

LORD Irvine of Lairg, our artistically acquisitive Lord Chancellor who has raided our finest galleries to decorate his expensively-papered walls, has hit payback time. He has been persuaded by a Fife museum to lend a canvas from his own private collection, enticingly called *Still Life With Coffee Pot*. "Derry has a collection of Scottish colourists which hang in his private London home," says a friend of the pompous Scot. "He bought them in the 1970s; they tend to command six figures nowadays. He also has a Sickert drawing on loan to an exhibition in Spain. The traffic is not all one way, you know."



● *MORE political insights from Naomi Campbell after she and her friend Kate Moss (pictured) met Fidel Castro. "He knew that I was the first black woman to appear on the cover of* Vogue *and Kate started the revolution of little models. So I suppose we were both revolutionaries in his eyes."*

JASPER GERARD

NE 18 1998

TIMES PAST — THE TIMES — FUTURE

DEPRESSION ALERT

America buys a few yen and only a little time

Larry Summers, the US Treasury Secretary, flies to Tokyo today as a not particularly welcome guest. Joint US-Japanese intervention has reversed the yen's slide for the time being. Tokyo's supplementary budget required to implement the £75 billion stimulus repackage announced in April has finally cleared the last parliamentary hurdle. The Japanese Government claims that it has now done enough to boost growth by 2 per cent this year, pulling Japan out of it steepest recession since the 1973 oil shock. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, plans to spend most of the next four weeks on the stump, campaigning for July's Upper House elections. So the last thing he wants is public US insistence that more, far more, needs to be done immediately if Japan's collapsing economy is not to drag the world into a long and deep depression.

It is precisely because Japan's politicians take a dangerously complacent view that Mr Summers is right to have invited himself for emergency talks. Over the past six years, Japan has allocated £225 billion to pump-priming, only to see the collapse in output, confidence, property prices, employment and the yen accelerate. This package does little more than balance last year's disastrous, permanent, tax rises with temporary compensating cuts. That will not be enough to persuade Japan's anxious savers to start spending again, particularly when unemployment is soaring. Without decisive supporting reforms, beginning with sharp permanent income tax cuts, more market opening and the cauterisation of a banking system whose £450 billion in bad loans now equal Japan's overseas assets, there is no reason to expect this piece of half-hearted fiscal stimulus to be any more effective than the others.

The same goes for this week's joint central bank intervention by the US and Japan. It has bought the yen a breathing space, just as $20 billion worth of intervention by the Bank of Japan's did, briefly, in April; but unless Japan grasps this opportunity to build domestic and international confidence in a durable recovery, the yen's fall could resume.

Stabilising the yen is absolutely critical. China, which is enduring a lot of pain, has hinted that the yen's continued fall could take the yuan down with it; Hong Kong's peg to the dollar could then collapse. That would set off another round of extreme financial turbulence in the region, killing off hopes of Korean and Southeast Asian recovery and risking serious political instability that could include China. Japan owns half the world's savings; if Japan's shaky banks were forced by the deepening crisis to repatriate their foreign holdings, there would be no insulating worldwide financial markets, industries and jobs from Asia's woes.

Jean-Michel Severino, the World Bank's vice-president for East Asia, is therefore right that the consequences of a Japanese slump could be far more serious than was the Latin American debt crisis of the 1980s. The closer parallel is with the 1930s. Just as it was then for America, so it is today with Japan. It is in the Government's power to avoid the doomsday scenario. Japan can reclaim its indispensable role as the engine of Asian recovery; but because it has refused for so long to face facts, it cannot now turn the economy around without pain, above all on jobs. That is why a "big bang", which links aggressive fiscal expansion to banking and structural reforms, is the only politically feasible course. That is the fast way to create new high-productivity jobs for those displaced from inefficient sectors.

Mr Hashimoto, like St Augustine, is pledged to virtue, but not yet. He promises to deal with the banks' bad loans — after the July elections: he has promised tax reforms — sometime next year. Japan's crisis is mainly political. This Bill Clinton, his mind sharpened by his imminent trip to Beijing, now appears to understand. America's refusal to take "not yet" for an answer should be echoed in every finance ministry, bank and dealing room in the industrial world.

TERROR IN KOSOVO

Serb brutality has made a guerrilla army of the KLA

President Milosevic played the "terrorism" card in Moscow this week to justify his refusal to withdraw Serbian troops from Kosovo. He was playing a familiar game. In country after country, political manipulation of terms such as "guerrilla", "terrorist" and "fighter" on the basis of whether they agree with the cause of these irregular men of violence has stripped those words of much of their integrity. To public opinion, "guerrilla" conjures up the favourable image of the doughty, poorly armed peasant, stealing from his home at night to attack an oppressive regime. The "terrorist", on the other hand, is a zealot, the indiscriminate murderer of the innocent, the coward who will not confront his enemies face to face. "Fighter" is a neutral word. One effect of blurring these terms is to foster the cynical notion that they are interchangeable. But a guerrilla is not the same as a terrorist; and the Kosovo Liberation Army, though perhaps once terrorists, are terrorists no longer.

The distinction is fundamental. The guerrilla aims, eventually, to build an army and overthrow the State; he attacks first its outposts, then its garrisons, forcing it to withdraw from areas where he builds popular support by providing an alternative government. As his power increases, the State's wanes, until eventually — as in China or Zaire — he defeats it in the open and becomes the new government. The terrorist, by contrast, does not fight the State directly. Indiscriminate attacks — or those on groups only the terrorist defines as the enemy — undermine the State's legitimacy by demonstrating its inability to deliver its primary function: security for its citizens. The guerrilla aims to supplant the government, the terrorist to make the country ungovernable.

A crucial factor is popular support. Attacking the armed agents of the State is dangerous; the guerrilla has enough backing both to replace casualties and to know that, whatever the reprisals, he has a refuge. The terrorist has no such guarantee. Paucity of support — perhaps a consequence of a narrow cause — means that he is too weak to sustain an open assault, and unlikely to be protected against its consequences. He must intimidate to survive. There is also a distinction in techniques. Warfare is mutual — the armed against the armed. Guerrilla operations are warfare; terrorist ones are not.

So are the KLA "terrorists"? Their original operations were indiscriminate shootings of unarmed Serbs, and thus terrorist in their targets and their character. While Ibrahim Rugova's non-violent, political approach retained broad support, the transition from terrorist to guerrilla organisation was unlikely. But Serbian repression has polarised Albanian Kosovar opinion. Few of the refugees streaming across the border are young men. Slobodan Milosevic's iron hand has moulded a genuine guerrilla movement with huge popular support out of a fringe terrorist organisation. KLA attempts at ethnic cleansing are almost certainly continuing. But the KLA are now guerrillas; and it is Serb brutality that has made them so.

SHARPE PRACTICE

Teddy Hall blues for the principal

In the porter's lodge Skullion scowled, sending Edmund, the college cat, yowling for cover. The head porter was frustrated at his failure to frighten fifteen Japanese tourists who were ignoring his notice that foreigners were not allowed on the grass. The sign had been composed for him by his friend the modern languages tutor and read *PELOUSE INTERDITE* — but all to no effect. Skullion hated change in his college. He had already served seven principals, progressing over most of the century from junior scout to head porter. And now he was surrounded by every horrifying symbol of change: a computer, women with their disgusting requirements on every staircase and continual parties of foreign trippers.

Worse, the college was about to change principals *again*. Change? There was always change and what good did it do. Skullion could think of nothing good in change. His memory ranged back over the great principals who knew their Teddy's vintage from their old crusty, and turned a blind eye on the excesses of the Hall Ball.

And this last principal, the one whom the fellows had just forced out, had seemed such a good prospect. It is true that his views as a judge and prisons inspector had seemed to Skullion lenient to the point of imbecility. What these ruffians needed was a good flogging, and then to be locked up with the key thrown away. And the principal was not himself an Aularian. But in spite of his taste for vulgar bow ties, he dressed like a gentleman. He was good with the young gentlemen, supporting the college crews in Eights week and entertaining undergraduates with college sherry.

The trouble was, growled Skullion into his cocoa, that the job of principal had changed, like everything else in this benighted modern Britannia. The principals of his younger days had been feckless retired figureheads who appreciated their feasts, occupied the grandest residence in college and interfered with college life as little as possible. New Oxford's principals were expected to sing for their port, by raising the millions that had changed the Hall in such horrible ways. This one had also wanted a say in how the money that he raised was spent. He did not realise that a principal was not a judge, just a junior among fellows.

Skullion had suspected something was up when he caught the dean and the bursar whispering in the rose garden. Bloody change again. A new principal would have to be instructed in the traditions of the Hall. And since these days principals were allowed to marry, a new wife would have to be taught to entertain ghastly, rich foreigners.

From the front quad came the sound of broken glass, and teddy bears wearing smoked-salmon-and-avocado bow ties parachuted past on inflated condoms into the High. Here were plots in the senior common room, vanities and envy along the corridors of power, the young gentlemen staging a demo in the quad. Some things will never change at Oxbridge. And at last a bleak smile cracked the old porter's face, like winter sunshine glinting on a coffin lid.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tory policy and women in Ulster

From the Policy Co-ordinator of the Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Sir, The release of paramilitary prisoners in Northern Ireland (report, June 16) is linked to decommissioning in as much as every aspect of the agreement is linked to every other aspect. It is, however, *explicitly* linked to the maintenance of ceasefires by the organisations to which the prisoners belong. To link it explicitly to anything else is to turn the agreement into a "house of cards", with all its inherent instability.

The agreement will be hard enough to implement in full — especially when every party to the talks, with the obvious exception of the NI Women's Coalition, has already dishonoured their responsibility to ensure the right of women to full and equal political participation, by selecting a meagre 15 per cent of women candidates for next week's assembly elections.

My main question, however, is why the Conservative Party, by demanding an explicit link between disarmament by paramilitaries and the early release of prisoners, is taking it upon itself to try to rewrite an agreement endorsed by over 70 per cent of the highest turnout of voters in living memory? And more importantly, what does this attitude now say about the chances of future progress if and when they return to government?

When the Conservatives last gained power, in 1979, the conflict in Northern Ireland was barely a decade old. Two decades later, we are still picking up the pieces of a regime which valued rhetoric and dogma over rational consideration of the issues.

Yours,
BARBARA McCABE,
Policy Co-ordinator,
Northern Ireland Women's Coalition,
52 Elmwood Avenue,
Belfast BT9 6AZ.
June 16.

From Mr Alistair B. Cooke

Sir, Martin Fletcher exaggerates the importance of the Women's Coalition in Northern Ireland ("Women who make it hard to behave badly", Features, June 15). This standard-bearer for politically-correct Blairite values should not be given the credit for bringing serious political activity within the reach of women for the first time.

Nine women were elected to the 52-member Stormont House of Commons during its lifetime from 1921 to 1972 — rather more as a proportion of the total number of MPs than the 95 women elected to the Westminster Parliament during the same period.

Six of the nine, who also included a redoubtable Liberal and two independents, represented the Ulster Unionist Party, which is rarely praised for its enlightened attitudes. It was among their political opponents, whose demands for reform have been so widely hailed, that women candidates were unwelcome.

Yours faithfully,
ALISTAIR B. COOKE,
Flat 1,
68 St George's Square, SW1V 3QT.
June 16.

Barristers' priorities and their pay

From Mr Richard Burnett-Hall

Sir, Life for most barristers is undoubtedly highly competitive (letters, June 15) — as it is for, say, footballers and musicians who aspire to the heights of their callings. It is unrealistic to expect those who have succeeded not to aim to charge what the market will bear. The issue is not so much what fees can be commanded, as whether the adversarial judicial process that makes them worth paying needs fundamental reform.

If I have a good arguable case, it should be sufficient for me to hire a competent counsel — are there any in practice who are not? — to present it to the court. I should not need a star performer. But if my opponent retains a leading silk at several times my counsel's fee, and that alone puts me at risk of losing, then I must match the opposition if I can.

Some people will of course always be better lawyers, and more original and creative, than others, and so be more in demand. However, if obtaining justice for litigants depends crucially on whether their lawyer is also a star performer at oral advocacy, with the consequences for costs, delay and potential unfairness that entails, it is right to question whether our judicial system has got its priorities right. Those of other European countries are not so dependent on oral advocacy, and international business is increasingly preferring the costs and time savings they offer.

We should be concentrating on the causes of the problem, and not the symptoms. Regulation of free market fees is in order only if we cannot face dealing with the real issue.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD BURNETT-HALL,
16 Wilby Mews, W11 3NP.
June 15.

From Mr Richard A. Benson, QC

Sir, In order to advise on appropriate charges I had to view the home-made videos of a man actually raping his eight-year-old stepdaughter. The brutality of the man and the pathetic cries of the little girl still haunt me. I shall not shrink from doing the same again in order to honour the code of my profession. I did it for the cost of a cut-price teabag in a chipped mug.

Are we criminal practitioners really so hugely overpaid?

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD A. BENSON,
36 Bedford Row, WC1R 4JH.
June 15.

Concern over privatisation plans

From Mr A. L. Blackman

Sir, It was good to read in your newspaper, in connection with the "privatisation" of the National Air Traffic Services, a quotation from Sir Malcolm Field, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, saying that "safety is paramount" (report, June 12). But will the CAA still be responsible for the safety regulations of NATS?

After all, with the removal of NATS, CAA will lose about 85 per cent of its budget. Will it make sense to have a CAA when its only significant responsibility will be the safety regulation at Gatwick? The responsibility for air safety is increasingly being controlled by the 27 states forming the European Joint Aviation Authorities and supporting EU regulations. These are very important issues and it would have been comforting if the Government had explained exactly how the air safety of the UK, in all its aspects, was going to be managed, at the same time as describing its financial manoeuvres.

Privatising what is virtually a monopoly supplier, such as NATS, is a very difficult, some would say a very undesirable thing to do. However well the regulation procedure is defined in law, inevitably the user feels that he is being overcharged as costs, profits, salaries and bonuses go up. In the case of NATS there is the added dimension of maintaining the safety of everybody using UK national airspace.

Inevitably, monopoly suppliers are always looking for ways of getting unregulated profits. There must be a concern that NATS will be tempted to sell its services overseas rather than putting all its efforts into safe and efficient UK air traffic management.

It is to be hoped that the Bill introducing the privatisation of NATS will prevent any dilution of control over our airspace.

Yours faithfully,
TONY BLACKMAN
(Board member, CAA, 1993-97),
Faraway Farm, Sidmouth Road,
Honiton, Devon EX14 8TZ.
June 12.

From Mr Gerard Noel

Sir, Richard Evans's statement, in today's front-page report on the Chancellor's privatisation plans for the Tote, that in 1997 "£7.9 million of the Tote's £12.8 million profit went back into racing" is incorrect. The Tote, according to figures in its annual report, made a profit in 1997 of £3,125,000, none of which, as ever, went back into racing.

What confuses Richard Evans and the rest of the racing fraternity is the Tote's deliberately misleading practice of referring to three items of its operating costs (the betting levy, sponsorship and payments to racecourses) as its "contribution to racing". As all bookmakers pay the levy, many sponsor races, and all have to pay racecourses for the facilities they use, it is, of course, preposterous for the Tote to represent these costs, which are treated as deductible expenses for the purposes of computing its taxable profits, as some kind of donation to racing.

The Tote was founded in 1928 primarily to raise money for racing. Yet it is at least 25 years since the Tote has paid racing a single penny for its exclusive right to operate pool betting on horse racing. Whatever the future holds for the Tote, racing has little to fear: it could not possibly get a worse deal than it has now.

Yours faithfully,
GERARD NOEL,
Flat 2, 10 Porchester Terrace, W2 3TL.
June 12.

Used tyres

From Mr Myron Morris

Sir, The problem of disposing of used tyres is one which goes back a long way, and, as suggested by your Environment Correspondent (report, June 15), a number of perfectly viable processes exist to recycle them.

Making tyres last longer carries technical hazards which, I believe, would outweigh the costs of recycling. The main cost lies in collecting the used tyres from the tyre distributors, and sorting out those suitable for remoulding from the ones purely for scrap.

Since tyre distributors make very healthy profits from their trade, could there not be a small "used tyre" levy, which would cover the cost of recycling? A charge of 10p a tyre would bring in at least £2 million per year.

Yours faithfully,
MYRON MORRIS,
Le Régina,
34 Avenue Félix Faure,
06500 Menton, France.
June 15.

Tumim resignation

From the President of the Junior Common Room, St Edmund Hall, Oxford

Sir, The departure of Sir Stephen Tumim from St Edmund Hall (report, June 16) is significant not only for the damage it will cause to current students, but moreover for the questions it will raise about what kind of long-term future the college faces.

Teddy Hall is one of the Oxford colleges most vulnerable to further higher-education cuts, and this move simply serves to exacerbate its financial instability. Not only does it lose Sir Stephen's fundraising abilities: payment of a reported six-figure settlement to secure his resignation will also confirm the impression that such money which Teddy Hall does have is not being spent in the best interests of its students.

Yet it is not just money which the college will lose when Sir Stephen, who has worked tirelessly to raise its standard and stature, leaves. Enforcing the resignation of a highly popular principal, those entrusted with the governance of our college, comprising fewer than 50 fellows, have acted against the wishes of several hundred junior members and numerous alumni, as well as respected figures and organisations within the university. The Junior Common Room condemns their short-sightedness and lack of professionalism.

Any continuance by the senior common room of policies which are so wholly in opposition to the opinions of the college's other constituent parts will not only cause profound internal conflict, but will also alter the nature of Teddy Hall itself. The saddest point in the college's long history will then arise — when current and former students no longer have the desire to preserve something, once so treasured, which has become defaced.

Yours etc,
J. HOUGHTON,
President,
The Junior Common Room,
St Edmund Hall,
Oxford OX1 4AR.
June 16.

Printed patents

From Mr A. P. Woolrich

Sir, Your report about the disposal of the Manchester City Library collection of patents ("For sale: a patented history in the making", June 8) provides yet another example of our failure as a nation to properly appreciate the value of technical history to our culture.

Manchester is not alone, since over the years on the grapevine one has learned about libraries set up in the last century by groups of provincial engineers being sent to the tip, and recently of a prestigious university dumping a long run of the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers* to make more space for modern publications.

Technical history — the investigation of the techniques and machinery of manufacturing — is not taught in Britain. Therefore there is little demand for the information, so libraries discard material to make space for what is needed. The market clearly rules.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. WOOLRICH
(Modelmaker and turner),
Canal Side, Huntworth,
Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0AJ.
June 8.

From Dr David Newton

Sir, Lest your readers worry that all records of patented inventions are being sold off, I can assure you that this is not the case.

Until 1852 patents were enrolled at various government law offices and most have survived and are kept by the Public Record Office. As a result of an admirable effort started in that year, when the Patent Office was founded, the details from the patent rolls were transcribed and printed.

These printed documents, many sets of which still exist, are the patent specifications which form a record of Britain's technological history. One of the most complete sets was inherited from the Patent Office Library by the British Library, from where any patent specification can be photocopied for a modest charge or supplied as photographic reproductions, if required.

The patents themselves, as distinct from the specifications, are open documents with pendant wax seals (or more recently certificates, some with attached seals) which are given to the owner of the patent. Few of these older patents still exist.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. NEWTON
(Head of Patents Information,
Science Reference and Information Service, The British Library),
25 Southampton Buildings,
London WC2A 1AW.
June 8.

Business letters, page 33

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk*

Football violence on pitch and off

From Mr Chris Kimberley

Sir, It seems paradoxical that football as an Olympic sport brings players and supporters together in a spirit of international fellowship, while the World Cup engenders the worst aspects of nationalism (letters, June 16, 17). Problems such as we have seen in France obviously cannot therefore stem from competition per se, and the Olympics and the Wimbledon tennis championships, for instance, are examples of peaceful commercial exploitation, so one cannot necessarily associate money surrounding competitions with the causes of violence.

Contrary to the impression given at the moment, hooliganism is not exclusively an English phenomenon. For instance, I understand that in Italy some football clubs are associated with neofascism and crowd violence. In fact, there seems to be a culture built around professional football worldwide in which violence, xenophobia and racism are acceptable. We observe examples of these attitudes among the crowds and on the pitch.

In the UK, while players are allowed to perpetrate what are in essence criminal acts, both on and off the pitch, there is little hope for those fans who continue to adore them and who cannot seem to see that some players' behaviour is entirely unacceptable. The football associations appear to be unequal to this problem, so perhaps it is time to invoke the legal system through both private and criminal actions in order to regulate the game; responsibility for this should be given to an independent authority.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS KIMBERLEY,
Yew Tree Cottage, Ashperton,
Ledbury, Herefordshire HR8 2SA.
chris.kimberley@btinternet.com
June 17.

From Professor Muir Hunter, QC

Sir, The elimination of football violence perpetrated by our citizens abroad could be assisted through the passport system. A British passport is the property of the Crown and, whether or not there is still power to withhold its issue, it can be impounded, by the order of a bankruptcy court or a criminal court, to prevent its holder absconding. There also remains in force the ancient remedy of *ne exeat regno*, intended equally to prevent a defendant to legal proceedings from absconding.

Could not one of the criminal justice statutes be rapidly amended to provide that, on proof of the holder of a passport having been engaged in football hooliganism abroad, the passport could be impounded by a magistrates' court? Such a step might mitigate the sense of outrage being expressed by our European partners.

Yours faithfully,
MUIR HUNTER,
Hunterston, Donhead St Andrew,
Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 9EB.

From Dr David Swinson

Sir, Your correspondents' suggestions (letters, June 17) that the British Government or FA should compensate the good people of Marseilles are worthy of consideration.

However, I would suggest that any such action be undertaken with the same dispatch and fairness which has characterised the French Government's compensation to foreign road-haulage contractors, whose livelihoods have been so damaged by the various strikes and resulting highway obstruction by French lorry drivers.

Yours sincerely,
D. R. SWINSON,
Limbrik House,
155 Wigan Road, Standish,
Wigan, Lancashire WN6 0AG.
david.swinson@btinternet.com
June 17.

From Professor Roger Buckley

Sir, As football violence is not about to disappear, surely the next step should be for the FA and the Government to include a compensation charge in the price of all tickets sold for future matches involving England. This might be termed the Marseilles levy as a reminder of football's ignominy.

Yours sincerely,
ROGER BUCKLEY,
167 Sandycombe Road,
Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2EN.
June 17.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN (retd)

Sir, The Naval Discipline Act makes provision for an "aggravated offence" by which leavebreaking is treated more seriously if the offender's ship is under sailing orders than if it is not.

Perhaps there is a parallel case for civil offences to be considered as "aggravated" if the crimes concerned bring the nation into disrepute or disgrace.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire PO10 7QR.

From Mrs John Black

Sir, Today it was a pleasure to walk three small grandchildren to town, as the roads were almost traffic-free. The drivers were obviously all watching England score two goals.

Please may we have the World Cup more frequently?

Yours faithfully,
SHEILA BLACK,
58 Riverside Gardens,
Midsomer Norton, Bath BA3 2NS.
June 15.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

June 17: The Queen, with The Duke of Edinburgh, honoured Ascot Races with her presence today.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 17: The Prince of Wales, Chairman, the Royal Collection Trust, this morning received Mr Hugh Roberts (Director).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

June 17: The Princess Royal, Patron, the Royal College of Anaesthetists, this morning attended the Diplomates' Ceremony at Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Bedford Way, Strand, London.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Starehe Endowment Fund (UK) "Aim High Appeal" Reception at Shell International, Belvedere Road, Waterloo, London.

ST JAMES'S PALACE

June 17: The Duke of Kent, Royal Fellow, the Royal Society, this evening attended a "New Frontiers in Science" Soirée at Carlton House Terrace, St James's, London.

Royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, honorary life member, will open the new Marylebone Cricket Club's stand at Lord's, London NW8, at 10.30.

The Prince of Wales, as president, Business in the Community, will visit the Jubilee community centre, the Moakes, Purley Centre, Luton, Bedfordshire, at 10.35; as president, the Prince's Trust, will visit North Saints community centre, Solway Road, at 11.50; will attend a seminar and lunch organised by the National Foster Care Assocation at Putteridge Bury, Hitchin Road, at 12.30; will open the Embankment Bridge, Bedford, at 2.00; and, as patron, Museum of Garden History, will attend an event to raise funds for the museum at Old Warden Park, Biggleswade, at 2.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, president, Cancer Research Campaign, will attend the campaign's 75th anniversary midsummer celebration at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff, at 7.20.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Honorary Freeman, the Fan Makers' Company, will attend a ladies' dinner at Skinners' Hall, London, EC4, at 7.15.

Princess Alexandra will attend a garden party at Canonbury Grove, London, N1, at 7.45 to mark the restoration of New River Walk, Islington.

Luncheons

Barbers' Company

Mr A.H. Beadles, Headmaster of Epsom College, was the speaker at the annual awards luncheon of the Barbers' Company held yesterday at Barber-Surgeons' Hall. Mr A.J.B. Missen, Master, presided, assisted by Sir John Chalstrey, Upper Warden, Mr G.G. Macdonald, Renter Warden, and Mr R.R.C. Bloomfield, Deputy Master. Among others present were:

Medical and dental students from the London teaching hospitals, recipients of the Barbers' Company nursing scholarship, nurses from the City of London Freeman's School, Epsom College, Reed's School, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, a medical student from New Zealand sponsored by the company, Dame Kathleen Raven, Surgeon Vice-Admiral Sir James Watt, Professor T R Pitt-Ford, Professor Henry Roseveare, Professor J P Carley, Professor Laurence Carey, Professor Alexander McGeish, Professor David Williams, Professor A J Zuckerman, Dr N Flores, Dr Roger Horton, Dr Yvonne Burne, Mr D C Haywood, Mr D W Jarrett, Mr Vishy Mahadevan and other representatives of educational establishments.

Securities Institute

Ms Judith Mayhew, chairman of the policy & resources committee, Corporation of London, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Securities Institute of London held yesterday at Centurion House, EC3. Mr Graham Ross Russell, chairman of the institute, presided.

Consular Corps of London

Mr Robert Cockburn, of British Telecom, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Consular Corps of London held yesterday at the Hyatt Carlton Tower Hotel. Mr Lawrence Landau, president of the corps, was in the chair.

Reception

City & Guilds Association

A reception was held yesterday at 1 Giltspur Street, London EC1, to mark the launch of the City & Guilds Association. Colonel Alan Roberts, president of the association, and Dr Nicholas Carey, director-general of the City & Guilds of London Institute, were the hosts. Mrs Pam Liversidge was the guest speaker.

Soirée

Royal Society

The Duke of Kent, FRS, was received by Sir Aaron Klug, OM, President of the Royal Society, and Lady Klug with officers of the society at a soirée held last night at 6 Carlton House Terrace to mark the annual New Frontiers in Science exhibition. Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Members of both Houses of Parliament and fellows of the society and their guests were present.

Birthdays today

Mr James Bishop, writer, 69; Mr Michael Blakemore, freelance director, 70; Mr Ian Carmichael, actor, 78; Professor J.M. Connor, geneticist, 47; Mr Derek Deane, artistic director, English National Ballet, 45; Mr Carl de Winter, former secretary general, Federation of British Artists, 64; Mr Peter Donohoe, pianist, 45; the Very Rev P.B. Francis, former Provost, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, 45; Mr Ian Hargreaves, former Editor, *The Independent*, 47; Miss Patricia Hutchinson, former diplomat, 72; Mr Roy Jackson, former assistant general secretary, TUC, 70; Mr J. Kelsall, Headmaster, Brentwood School, Essex, 55; General Sir Brian Kenny, 64; Sir Dennis Landau, former chief executive, Co-operative Wholesale Society, 71; Sir Paul McCartney, musician, 56; Mr Paul Mayersberg, script writer, 57; Miss Isabella Rossellini, actress, 46; Miss Delia Smith, cookery writer and broadcaster, 57.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh, statesman, Dublin, 1769; Edouard Daladier, Premier of France 1933-34 and 1938-40, Carpentras, 1884.

DEATHS: Rogier van der Weyden, painter, Brussels, 1464; William Coombe, poet, London, 1823; William Cobbett, politician and writer, Guildford, 1835; Samuel Butler, author of *The Way of All Flesh*, London, 1902; Roald Amundsen, polar explorer, lost in flight over the Arctic, 1928; Douglas Jardine, Surrey and England cricket captain, Switzerland, 1958; Ethel Barrymore, actress, Hollywood, 1959.

The English were defeated by Joan of Arc at Patay, 1429.

The first life insurance policy was issued in London, 1583.

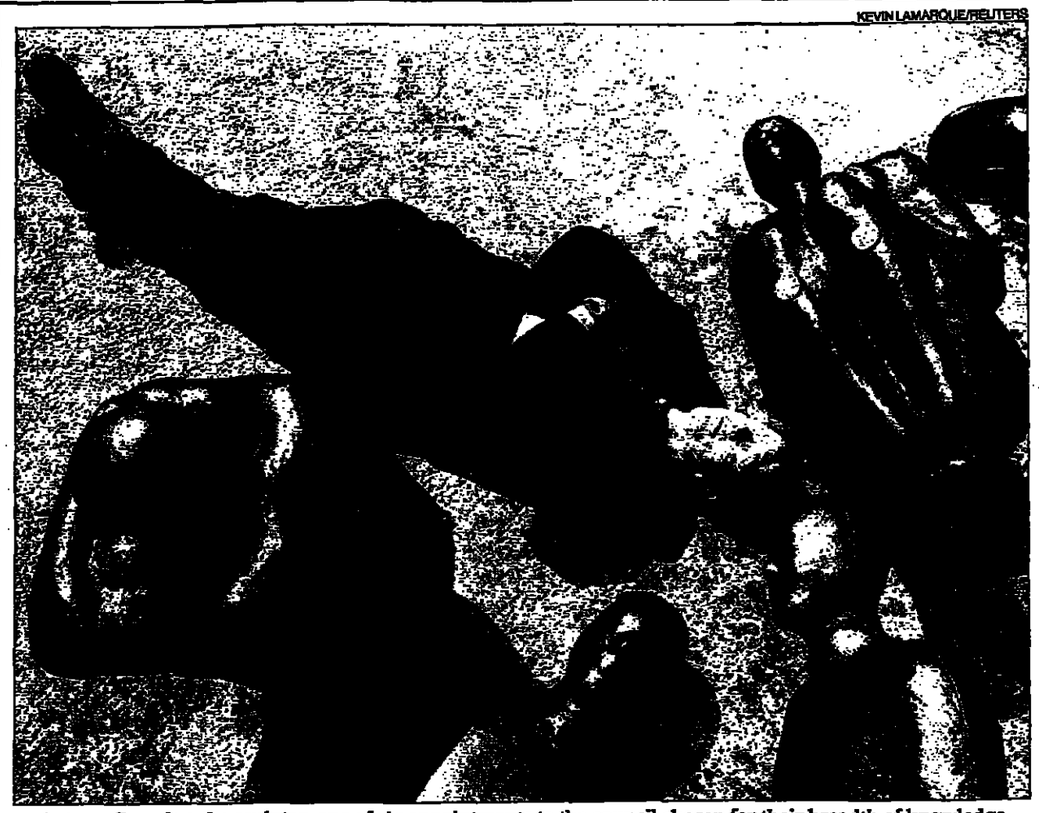
The United States declared war against Britain, 1812.

The Battle of Waterloo took place, 1815.

Appointment

Lord Rothschild has been appointed chairman of the trustees of the Heather Trust for the Arts which administers the Gilbert collection of silver, given to the nation in 1996. He succeeds **Lord Swaythling**, who retired due to ill health in April. The collection will go on public view next year in a new museum in the restored south wing of Somerset House, London.

KEVIN LAMARQUE/REUTERS



Antony Gormley, the sculptor, one of six appointments to the council chosen for their breadth of knowledge

Curtain rises on new Arts Council

BY A CORRESPONDENT

ANTONY GORMLEY, the sculptor who created the "Angel of the North", and Deborah Bull, the ballet dancer, were yesterday among appointments to a slimmed-down Arts Council of England.

Gerry Robinson, chairman of the council, wanted to streamline the decision-making process at the arts-funding body, and the number of members has been halved. Previously, members represented different geographical regions and separate areas of the arts. The new members have been appointed for their breadth of knowledge of the arts.

The Arts Council distributes Government and National Lottery cash to the arts, as well as developing and improving knowledge of the arts. However, the workload has increased sharply since the Lottery began, and meetings have been lengthy as members fight their particular corners.

Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, yesterday unveiled the line-up of the unpaid body, which serves for three years — or two years for those being reappointed. He said: "The new Arts Council encompasses a diverse range of talent from a variety of different professional backgrounds. I am particularly pleased that a number of artists and performers of international standing have committed their time and expertise to the council.

"What all its members have in common is the ability to offer expert understanding and committed leadership to the arts in this country."

The new council includes six fresh appointments and four serving members who have been chosen to serve again. Mr Robinson said: "There is artistic breadth and authority, the practitioner perspective, the regional dimension, experience and continuity from the previous council and new and youthful blood. This blend will, without doubt, provide vision, strategic thinking and decisive leadership on behalf of artists, arts organisations and audiences throughout England."

Panels of experts from different areas of the arts will continue to advise the council but their chairmen will no longer serve on the body and will lose their decision-making powers. That move upset many long-serving panel members and caused several of resignations.

The council's drama advisory panel resigned en masse last month as a protest at a revamp in the structure. Figures such as Sir Alan Ayckbourn, the playwright, and Thelma Holt, the West End producer and the panel's chairman, were among those to leave. They were followed by Lady McMillan, who quit as chairman of the council's dance panel, and this week Stephen Phillips left the touring panel.

Theatre directors and producers made their feelings known by writing to Mr Smith shortly after the first resignations. Sir Peter Hall and Sir Cameron Mackintosh were among the 60 signatories who said that they would not want to serve on any panel whose chairman was not a full member of the council.

Before the shake-up, the council consisted of 23 members, made up of Mr Robinson, 10 panel chairmen, 10 chairmen of regional arts boards and two other appointments who would chair *ad hoc* committees.

Under the revised system there will be 11 members. The 10 new appointments, plus Mr Robinson, who is chairman of the Granada group. He was appointed earlier this year, succeeding Lord Gowrie, and took over as Art Council chairman on May 1.

Amid reports that some arts figures had rejected offers to sit on the council, Mr Robinson said: "It was more difficult paring people down. I can't think of a single instance where we had a direct rejection.

"It's a council that is made up of individuals from various art forms who have an interest across all the arts, which is an important part of the decision-making process."

He said that part of the problem with the old structure was that panel chairmen were looking after their own particular interests from their own art form. "It was nearly impossible for them not to be influenced by that," he said. "Really, a panel of 23 people is never going to make a decision on anything. It's like the Politburo.

"The Arts Council is the main funding body so it is important that the structure is sound. A lot of people wanted to remain on the panels and remain on the council which is structurally unsound because it does not lead to impartial decision making.

"It's an artistically strong collection of people, despite all the noises about 'suits' — literally, that hasn't happened."

Mr Robinson said that he had received positive feedback at the choice of people on the new council which met informally for the first time yesterday. It is due to hold its first official meeting in mid-July.

Arts, pages 38-41

NEW APPOINTMENTS

☐ **Derrick Anderson:** chief executive of Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council; previously deputy director of Yorkshire Arts, Head of Leisure Services at Wakefield MBC and director of leisure services at Wolverhampton MBC.

☐ **Deborah Bull:** Principal Dancer at the Royal Ballet since 1992. A member of the Arts Council's dance advisory panel.

☐ **Antony Gormley:** internationally-renowned sculptor whose work Critical Mass is on show at the Royal Academy of Arts in London. He was awarded the Turner Prize in 1994.

☐ **Anish Kapoor:** another sculptor of international reputation. He represented Britain at the 1990 Venice Biennale, where he was a prizewinner and was awarded the Turner Prize in 1991.

☐ **Joanna MacGregor:** an international concert pianist who has appeared with all the major British orchestras. She is Professor of Music at Gresham College, London.

☐ **Hilary Strong:** director of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe since May 1994 and previously an administrator and producer in regional and international theatre companies.

REAPPOINTMENTS

☐ **David Brierley:** General Manager and Secretary to the Governors of the Royal Shakespeare Company from 1968 to 1996. He was first appointed to the council of England in November 1997. He is also a trustee of the Theatres Trust and lives in Cornwall.

☐ **Christopher Frayling:** Rector and Professor of Cultural History at the Royal College of Art. Professor Frayling has served on the Arts Council of England since 1994 and was previously a member of the Arts Council of Great Britain with a variety of portfolios including visual arts, film and education.

☐ **Andrew Motion:** poet, biographer and Professor of Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia. Professor Motion has served on the Arts Council of England since 1996.

☐ **Prudence Skene:** an experienced arts administrator and, until recently, director of the Arts Foundation. She was formerly executive director of Ballet Rambert and Executive Producer of the English Shakespeare Company. Miss Skene has served on the Arts Council of England since 1994 and lives in Bath.

Forthcoming marriages

The Rev I.E. Benson and Miss R.C. Wells
The engagement is announced between Ian, son of the late Mr Gilbert Benson and of Mrs Wyn Benson, of Oswestry, Shropshire, and Rosemary, daughter of Mr and Mrs Henry Wells, of Dean, Winchester.

Mr N.J.E. Cook and Miss H.K.H. Baird
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Derek Cook, of Over Alderley, Cheshire, and Helen, elder daughter of Mr Guy Baird, of Compton Abdale, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Juliet Baird, of Nayland, Suffolk.

Mr S.M. Goozee and Miss C.W. Robinson
The engagement is announced between Sam, only son of Mr Nicholas Goozee, of Puddletown, Dorset, and Mrs Susan Goozee, of Wimborne, Dorset, and Christine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs C. Robinson, of Minety, Wiltshire.

Mr R.J. Harrison and Miss A.E. Bowles
The engagement is announced between Robert James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Graham Harrison, of Willaston, Cheshire, and Annie Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Bowles, of Clapham, London.

Mr J.T.C. Kendall and Miss C.J. Spencer
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Tom Kendall, of Cobham, Surrey, and Caryn, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Spencer, of Littlebourne, Canterbury, Kent.

Mr B. Moffat and Miss S. Leathem
The engagement is announced between Barnaby, son of Mr Nigel Moffat, of Bristol, and Ms Jennifer Carder, of Tiverton, Devon, and Susannah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Leathem, of Reading, Berkshire.

Mr R.S. Moore and Miss S.E. Clarke
The engagement is announced between Roderick, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan K. Moore, of Nuneaton, Warwickshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Clarke, of Alsager, Cheshire.

Mr P.J. Mullen and Miss J.C. Brentnall
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr Brian Mullen, of Wetherby, Yorkshire, and Mrs Katherine Margerison, of Pannal, Yorkshire, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Brentnall, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire.

Mr S.D. Young and Miss V.J. Binns
The engagement is announced between Simon David, son of the late David Tom Young and of Sir Harry and Lady Ognall, and Vanessa Jane, younger daughter of Mr Michael Binns and of Mrs Michael Watson.

Marriage

Mr J.E. Ellingsen and Miss S.F. Mulholland
The marriage took place on Saturday, June 6, at the Church of St Francis of Assisi, Notting Hill, London, of Mr John Erik Ellingsen, elder son of Mr and Mrs Eyvin Ellingsen, of Oslo, Norway, to Miss Siobhan Mulholland, younger daughter of Mrs Frances Mulholland and the late Mr James Mulholland, OBE, of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.

A reception was held at the Farmers Club and the honeymoon is being spent walking in the Pyrenees.

Legal appointments

Mr David John Asplin has been appointed a District Judge on the Wales and Chester Circuit.

Mrs Catherine Elizabeth O'Leary has been appointed a District Judge on the Northern Circuit.

Service luncheons

The Queen's Own Yeomanry

Colonel R.J. Martin, Honorary Colonel, gave a luncheon at Claridge's on Monday for Colonel E.C. York to mark his appointment as Colonel of the Regiment. Also present were:

Colonel the Duke of Westminster, Colonel the Hon R.N. Crossley, Colonel A.G. Gibson (Northumberland Hussars), Colonel R.E. Howard-Vyse (The Yorkshire Yeomanries), Colonel J.C.V. Hunt (The Sherwood Rangers), Colonel Lord Hawke (Cheshire Yeomanry), Colonel A.W.A. Spiegelberg, Lieutenant Colonel J.R. Nickel-Lean and Lieutenant Colonel N.C. Glazebrook (Officer Commanding).

8th Gurkha Rifles

General Sir Walter Walker presided at the annual luncheon of the 8th Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association held last night at the Gurkha Museum, Winchester.

Dinners

Broderers' Company

Sir Christopher Collett, Lord Mayor *Locum Tenens*, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was the principal guest at a dinner given last night at Mercers' Hall by the Broderers' Company to mark the election of Mr Colin Hart as Master, Mr A.T. Peck as Warden and Mr B.W. Pride as Renter Warden. Among those present were:

The Earl of Burlington, Lord Bowness, Lord Brain, Lord Norton, Commander Sir Robin Gillett, His Honour Sir Lawrence Verney, Judge M Hucker, Mr B W G Fitzgerald (president, Chartered Institute of Loss Adjusters), the Master of the Curriers' Company, the Master of the Gold & Silver Wyre Drawers' Company and the Master of the Coachmakers' and Coach-Harness Makers' Company.

British African Business Association

Mr Peter Pooley, President of the Business Council Europe-Africa Mediterranean, was in the chair at a dinner of the British African Business Association held last night at HM Tower of London.

University news

University College London

Honorary degrees: Mario Vargas Llosa, Professor Robert F. Furchgott and Professor William M. Gorman.

Reed's School

Scholarships — 1998/99

13+

Academic Scholarship: William Bulman, The Blue Coat School, Birmingham.

Academic and Music Scholarship: Paul Carrelo, Dorset House.

All Round Scholarship: Richard Smith, St Andrews School.

Music Scholarship: Alastair Forbes, Lanesborough School.

Design Technology Scholarship: Guy Sanders, Denmead.

Sports Scholarships: James Morrison, Parkside; Daniel Owen, The Mall.

11+

Academic and All Round Scholarship: Peter Georgallou, Westward School.

Academic and Sports Scholarship: Izaac Brown, The Pyrford Primary School.

Academic Scholarship: Wasim Khan, Feltonfleet.

Sports Scholarship: James Boore, Trafalgar Junior School.

Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

The following were elected and will be admitted to office as Honorary Officers of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists on September 25, 1998:

President, Professor Robert Wayne Shaw (University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff); Senior Vice-President, Mr Peter Milton (Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge); Junior Vice-President, Professor James Owen Drife (The General Infirmary at Leeds); Honorary Treasurer, Mr Peter Bowen-Simpkins (Singleton Hospital, Swansea); Honorary Secretary, Professor Allan Templeton (Aberdeen Maternity Hospital).

Salters' Company

The following have been elected officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Lord Rockley; Upper Warden, Dr the Hon A.H. Todd; Second Warden, Lord Lloyd of Berwick.

Launderers' Company

The following have been installed officers for the ensuing year:

Master, Mr Michael Bennett; Deputy Master, Mr Richard Orford; Senior Warden, Mr Tom Elliott; Renter Warden, Mr Peter Crane.

Birthdays today

Mr James Bishop, writer, 69; Mr Michael Blakemore, freelance director, 70; Mr Ian Carmichael, actor, 78; Professor J.M. Connor, geneticist, 47; Mr Derek Deane, artistic director, English National Ballet, 45; Mr Carl de Winter, former secretary general, Federation of British Artists, 64; Mr Peter Donohoe, pianist, 45; the Very Rev P.B. Francis, former Provost, St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow, 45; Mr Ian Hargreaves, former Editor, *The Independent*, 47; Miss Patricia Hutchinson, former diplomat, 72; Mr Roy Jackson, former assistant general secretary, TUC, 70; Mr J. Kelsall, Headmaster, Brentwood School, Essex, 55; General Sir Brian Kenny, 64; Sir Dennis Landau, former chief executive, Co-operative Wholesale Society, 71; Sir Paul McCartney, musician, 56; Mr Paul Mayersberg, script writer, 57; Miss Isabella Rossellini, actress, 46; Miss Delia Smith, cookery writer and broadcaster, 57.

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The English were defeated by Joan of Arc at Patay, 1429.

The first life insurance policy was issued in London, 1583.

The United States declared war against Britain, 1812.

The Battle of Waterloo took place, 1815.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

If you have light for your whole body with no trace of darkness it will all be full of light, as when the lamp shines on you. Luke 11 : 36

BIRTHS

AFTHORP – On June 8th 1998, to Susan and Justin, a daughter, Jennifer Claire Emma.

BARROWCLIFF – On 10th May 1998 to Helena and Peter, a son, Digby.

BASSET – On June 15th, to Caroline (née Bailey) and Michael, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane.

BRYANT-HERON – On June 13th, 1998, to Elizabeth (née Pratt) and Mark, a son (Luke Thomas Michael), a brother for the twins Eleanor and Kathrya.

COHEN – On June 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Marie-Hélène (née Osterweil) and Andrew, a daughter, Jennifer Daria.

DANIELS – On 11th June at the John Radcliffe, Oxford, to Loraine (née Bostock-Smith) and Simon, a son, Benjamin Shipley, a brother for Jessica.

GUNASEKA – On June 15th at The Portland Hospital, to Isabelle (née Charrel) and Steven, a daughter, Emma, a sister for Thomas.

HAYDON – On May 19th 1998, to Jane (née Stubbington) and Chris, a beautiful daughter, Holly May, a sister for Katie.

PASHA – On 15th June 1998, at the Matilda Hospital, Hong Kong, to Sophie (née Norris) and Nicholas, a son, Sebastian Awad Plunkett.

BIRTHS

PRICE – On June 9th, to Nick and Celina, a daughter, Daisy May.

REES – On 12th June at North Hampshire Hospital to Michelle and David, a son, Matthew Lewis.

UKIAH – On June 12th, to Nicola (née Hayward) and Bob, a son, Jack Nicholas.

VANDENBERG – On June 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Anna and Franz, a daughter, Carla Flores, a sister for Carmen and Claudia.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

RAWSON – At Blackburn Cathedral on June 18th 1938 – Leslie to Ellen. Present Address: 19, Assheton Road, Blackburn.

DEATHS

ALLEN – Doreen on June 15th. Formerly of Flat 5, 126 Castelnau, Barnes, London SW13. Funeral Service, with Communion and committal, at St Catharine's House, Ormond Road, Wantage (01235 763739) on Friday June 26th at 10.30 am.

DEATHS

BIRD – On 8th June, 1998, Wing Commander Derek le Roy Bird RAF (Ret'd). Dicky beloved husband of Kathleen. Funeral at St Giles Church, Cambridge, Thursday 18th June at 1.00pm. Memorial Service later. Inquiries H. Williams, Cambridge CB4 3EJ (01223 359 480).

CLARKSON – Professor Max Boydel Elliott. Most dearly beloved husband of Madelaine and the very dearest father to Max, Adam and Helene, and father-in-law to Andrew, beloved brother of Lilian, William, Austin, Geoffrey and Stephen. Died of a heart attack in Rome, June 11th 1998. The Funeral will be held in Toronto.

DAMMANN – Stephan, beloved husband of Sue, father of Sophie and Guy, died suddenly 13th June 1998. Funeral enquiries telephone: 0973 745839.

DARK – Norman died peacefully on June 15th aged 83 years after an illness borne with great courage. Beloved husband Kathleen (Kay), much loved father of Sandra and Christopher and very proud grandfather and great-grandfather. Funeral Service at St Matthew's Church, Northwood on Monday June 29th at 2 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care or Imperial Cancer Research Fund, c/o T.A. Ellement & Son Ltd., 21 Bridge Street, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 3HR.

de WINTON – Charles Francis Seton very peacefully at home on Tuesday 16th June after receiving the Holy Sacrament of Extreme Unction. Deeply loved and deeply loving husband of Enid, darling father of Mary and Fanny and Johnny greatly loved son-in-law. Much loved grandfather of Emily and Charlie. Funeral private, Memorial Requiem Mass to be announced later.

DEWHURST – On 15th June 1998 peacefully Jim Dewhurst aged 78 years, much loved husband of Joan of Stoneleigh. Beloved father of Belinda, Paul and Ben. Funeral Service at St Mary the Virgin Church, Stoneleigh on Friday June 19th at 11.15 am, followed by cremation at Oakley Wood. Family flowers only, if wished donations for The Imperial Cancer Research Campaign may be sent to The John Taylor Funeral Service, 178 Warwick Road, Kenilworth.

DOBBS – (née Stoker) Ann Elizabeth in her 82nd year peacefully in her sleep at home on Monday 15th June 1998. Mother of Noel, Jamie and Robin, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Guildford Crematorium on Thursday 25th June at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations made out to Imperial Cancer Research may be sent to Farnham Funeral Service at 100 Shortheath Road, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8SE to whom enquiries should be addressed Tel: 01252 711 444.

DODD – Mona, aged 89, on June 16th. Kind, loving and much loved widow of Kenneth and mother of Jill and Michael; grandmother of Tony, Susan and James. Funeral Service on Thursday June 25th at 12 noon at Beckenham Crematorium. Family flowers. Donations if desired to South Bromley HospisCare. Enquiries to H Copeland and Son Ltd., 9 Bromley Road, Beckenham, Kent BR3 5NT. tel: 0181 650 2295.

To place obituaries, acknowledgements or notices please call
0171 680 6880

ELLIOTT – Dorothy, on Thursday, June 11th, 1998 peacefully at The Royal Marsden Hospital, Fulham Road, London, aged 79, after a short illness. Beloved widow of Robert Alfred, mother of Frances (deceased) and Robert, grandmother of Robbie, Katharine and Jamie, funeral service to be held at St Barnabas, Calton Avenue, Dulwich, London SE21 on Wednesday, June 24th, 1998, at 11.30 am and afterwards at her home in Dulwich. Enquiries to Francis, Buchanan Ltd., 42 Magdalen Road, London SW18 3NP. Telephone 0181 874 8383.

GWYNN – Alfred George. Died peacefully on June 13th 1998 in Penzance aged 86 years. Much loved father of William, Helen and Alec and loving grandfather of Hugo, Xander, Tom and Leo. Funeral service on Friday 19th June at 2.00 pm, Treleawny Chapel, Penmount, Truro. Donations, if desired, to The R.N.L.I. (Penlee), c/o R D Burroughs, Berwis Terrace, Penzance, Cornwall.

HANNEY – On June 15th suddenly in hospital, Commander Dennis Thompson Hanney, M.B.E., RN. (Ret'd). Devoted husband of the late Ginetta. Much loved father of Stephen and Jannifer, and sadly missed Grampy of Stuart and Joanna. Enquiries to Parting Funeral Service Tel: 01803 862417.

HEELD – On June 16th aged 67 Michael David Alan Heeld of Bishop Monkton, nr. Harrogate. Much loved husband of Unity and dear brother of Rosemary, died peacefully in Jersey whilst on holiday. Funeral arrangements to be announced later.

JARVIS – Andrew, died suddenly on 8th June 1998 in Uganda where the funeral arrangements are being made.

JONES – Peacefully on Sunday 14th June at Barham House Residential Rest Home, New Quay. Olive Clare, much beloved only sister of Alison Jackson who thank Mrs Skyme and Staff at Barham House for sustained affection and care. Family flowers to P.J. Callaghan Funeral Director, Milford House, George Street, New Quay, Ceredigion. Cremation ceremony at Aberystwyth Crematorium Monday 22nd June at 11.15 am.

JOSEPHY – On June 18th peacefully Irene Literary Agent aged 88 years. Widow of Eric Ludman.

KEIGHTLEY – On June 12th, peacefully in her sleep, Joan Lydia (née Smyth-Osbourne), widow of General Sir Charles Keightley, beloved mother of Richard and Patrick and dearly loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Tarrant Gunville, on Monday 22nd June at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, to RNLI c/o Colin Close, 1B Salisbury Street, Blandford, Dorset.

LEDGER – Michael Exton, died on Tuesday 16th June after courageous fight against cancer. Funeral to be held at Wakefield Cathedral on Tuesday 23rd at 1 pm. Family flowers only. Donations in his memory to Cookridge Hospital Cancer Appeal.

LONEY – John suddenly on 8th June at his home in Courtenay Square, London, aged 56. Beloved brother of Margaret and Jean and fond uncle of his nephews and nieces. Funeral at St Wilfrid's Church, Grappenhall, Warrington on a date to be announced. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for The Terence Higgins Trust Ltd. c/o A. Maddock & Son Funeral Directors, 73 London Road, Stockton Heath, Warrington.

McLACHLAN – John Duncan. On June 15th 1998 died suddenly at his Felixstowe home, dearly loved husband of Jo and father of Alec and Duncan, will be sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues. Funeral service at St. Peter & St. Paul Church, Old Felixstowe on Friday June 19th at 3.30 pm. Family flowers only please, but donations in his memory, made payable to Arthritis Research Campaign, may be sent to Farthing Funeral Service, 126, High Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 9AL.

RICHARD – Joyce Napier on 15th June 1998. Adored wife of the late Gavin, beloved mother of Jean, Angus and Alison, and much loved granny on three continents. Funeral Service at Trinity U.R.C. Freelands Road, Bromley on Monday 22nd June at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations if wished to NSPCC c/o Francis Chappell Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, Kent BR6 9JW.

SHERMAN – Peter, suddenly but peacefully of cancer, at home on 15th June 1998, aged 76. Darling husband of Celia, adored father of Carolhia, Jill and Antonia. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at 3 pm Wednesday 8th July at Luckington Parish Church.

TALBOT – Vice Admiral Sir Fitzroy Talbot. Peacefully on June 16th. Much loved father and grandfather. Funeral private. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to King George's Fund for Sailors c/o Thomas Green Funeral Service, Station Road, Wincanton, Somerset. Service of Thanksgiving to be held at a later date.

WALE – Doris on Monday June 15th 1998, widow of Hubert Wale, much loved mother of Angela and a dearly loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Service at Gt. St. Mary's Church, Cambridge on Tuesday June 23rd at 10.45 am. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Gt. St. Mary's Church.

WOODGATE – On June 14th, 1998, at home in Hemel Hempstead, at the age of 68, Timothy David Whymper Woodgate, T.D., dearly loved husband of Eva and father of Gerald. Service at Church of St John, Boxmoor, 2.20 pm, Monday 22nd June, followed by private cremation at Garston. By his own request, absolutely no flowers: donations instead to Wildlife Hospital Trust (St. Tiggywinkles), Haddenham, Aylesbury or, The Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, 93 Western Road, Tring, Hertfordshire.

OBITUARIES

JACKIE McGLEW

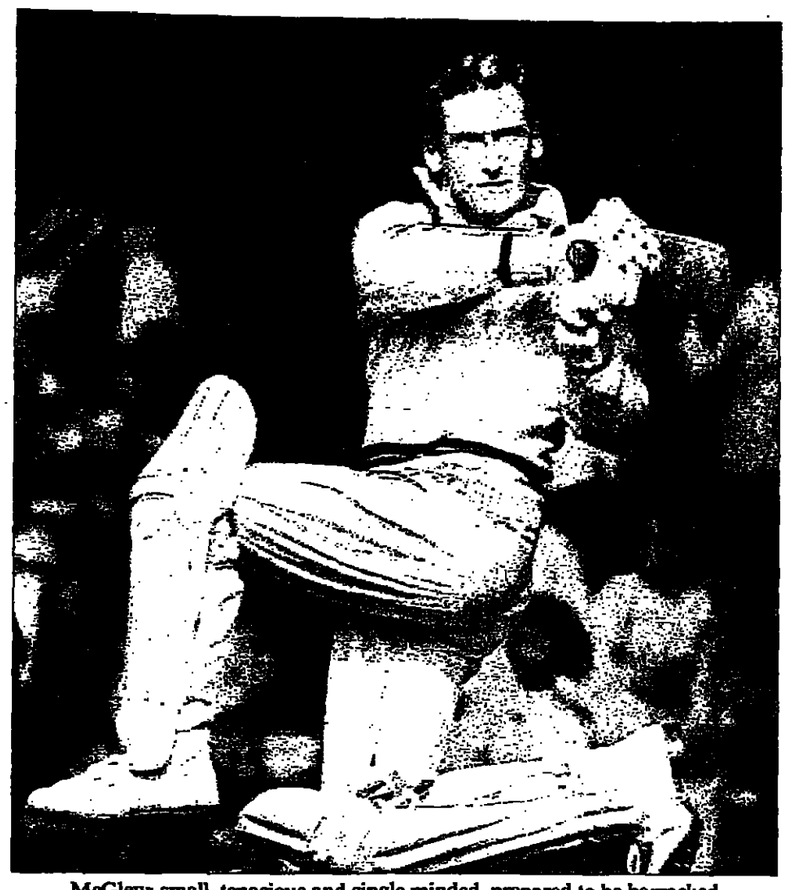
Derrick John (Jackie) McGlew, South African cricketer, died of chronic anaemia in Pretoria, on June 8 aged 69. He was born in Pietermaritzburg on March 11, 1929.

Few batsmen of any generation can have sold their wicket more dearly or defended it more intrepidly than Jackie McGlew. He was small, tenacious and single-minded, prepared to be barracked all day long if he felt it was in the interests of his side. As *Wisden* put it, when he was one of its Cricketers of the Year in 1956, word that McGlew was still batting "was sufficient to encourage hope or temper enthusiasm according to where allegiance lay".

Natal was his native province. He played for it first in the Nuffield Week, the great schoolboy jamboree which owed its origins to the philanthropy of Lord Nuffield, who had made a brief landfall at Durban in the late 1930s. Of the Natal schoolboy side that McGlew eventually captained, six went on to play for South Africa. McGlew did so 34 times, 14 of them as a painstaking and not unsuccessful captain. He played 19 seasons for Natal in the Currie Cup, 16 of those as captain.

In the field he was the Jonty Rhodes of his day — a brilliant, darting, highly trained cover point, who ran out many an unsuspecting batsman. His batting was founded on exceptional powers of concentration and a meticulously tight defence, very much like that of Bruce Mitchell and Eric Rowan, his immediate predecessors as South Africa's leading openers.

McGlew's 105 in nine hours and 35 minutes against Australia at Durban in 1957-58 is the second slowest hundred in all Test cricket: it dug South Africa out of a hole, but left them with just too little time to win the match. His 255 not out against New Zealand at Wellington in 1952-53, the first of his seven Test hundreds, had been another marathon innings, lasting for just under nine hours and still the second highest individual score made for South Africa. It led to a South African victory that time, and meant that McGlew was on the field throughout a match which lasted into the fourth afternoon.



McGlew: small, tenacious and single-minded, prepared to be barracked all day if he felt it was in the interests of his side

McGlew made three tours of England — as a 22-year-old under Dudley Nourse in 1951, as Jack Cheetham's vice-captain in 1955 and as captain himself in 1960. On the first of them he was more often out of the Test side than in it, and on the last he had the misfortune to lose all five tosses in the Test series, which England, captained by Colin Cowdrey, won 3-0. It was in 1960, too, that Geoff Griffen, one of McGlew's fast bowlers, was called for no-balling at Lord's, an unhappy and depressing episode. In 1955, however, McGlew had a great time of it, averaging 52.88 in the Test matches (despite collecting "a pair" at Lord's), and leading South Africa to victory at Old Trafford and Headingley, when Cheetham was absent through injuries. In each match he made a century.

South Africa were a very good side hereabouts, with two hostile opening bowlers in Heine and Adcock, a great off-spinner in Tayfield, a genuine all-rounded in Goddard, a brilliant stroke-maker in McLean, a wicketkeeper who could bat like an angel in Waite and any number of fine fielders. But the greatest thorn in England's side was McGlew, then arguably the best opening batsman in the world.

It could be said that England have never fielded a stronger attack than they did in the mid-1950s. They were embarrassed by riches. In that 1955 series against South Africa, Bedser, Statham, Trueman, Tyson, Loader, Bailey, Lock, Laker, Appleyard, Wardle and Titmus all played at some time or other; they were bowling, what is more, on uncovered pitches. It is a measure of McGlew's method and moral fibre that they found him such a confounded hindrance. He could be intense to the point of obtuseness and stubborn to the point of perversity, but he was a greatly respected and much-liked opponent.

He scored, all told, 12,170 runs (average 45.92), 2,440 of them in Test matches (average 42.06). Although only an occasional bowler, of leg breaks and googlies, he had an unusual hat-trick to his credit: playing for Natal against Transvaal at Durban in 1963-64, he took wickets with the last two balls of Transvaal's first innings and another with the first ball of their second.

McGlew was of a quite strongly religious bent and embraced eagerly the discipline and rigorism which K. G. Viljoen introduced when he managed South Africa on tour. Having retired, he worked in insurance and acted for a year or two as a Test selector during the era of rebel tours to South Africa. He also took the South African Under-19 side to West Indies when their cricket became multiracial. More recently he had taken a much less active part, not least because of poor health. Badly incapacitated by arthritis, he was prevented from having the new hips he needed by the blood condition which eventually caused his death. He married twice, there being two sons and one daughter of the first marriage and a daughter of the second. His second wife Patricia survives him along with the children of both marriages.

CRESSIDA RIDLEY

Cressida Ridley, archaeologist, died on June 10 aged 81. She was born on April 22, 1917.

CRESSIDA RIDLEY was equally outstanding for the clarity of her intellect and for the human warmth of her sympathies. Coming to archaeology only in her forties, she spent many years in Greece excavating and evaluating Neolithic sites, which added significantly to our knowledge. At home in rural England she actively carried on the Liberal and egalitarian tradition of her family, for she was the granddaughter of Herbert Henry Asquith and the eldest of the four children of Sir Maurice and Lady Violet Bonham Carter.

Helen Cressida Bonham Carter was born in London and was largely self-taught, since it was not yet taken for granted that daughters might benefit from the education received by sons. In her late teens she was sent, with others under the guidance of a Swiss governess, on the modern equivalent of a European Grand Tour. She spent several months in Vienna during 1935, where her life-long love of classical music, second only to her love of literature, began when she took piano lessons under Leonie Gombrich.

In 1939, aged 22, she married Jasper Ridley. He had read Greats at Oxford and she soon came to share his intellectual interests and his friendships (including that of Isaiah Berlin). Her married life was cut short by his death in Italy on active service: having joined the Eighth Army, and been taken prisoner in North Africa, Ridley escaped and hid, but he was killed while trying to regain the Allied lines. He never saw his son Adam. This cruel blow was the first of many bereavements and misfortunes which she felt deeply but always bore with exemplary stoicism.

In the war, she trained as a nurse, and then briefly worked for the Psychological Warfare unit at Woburn, under Walter Goetz and Dick Crossman. Near the end of the war she settled in Stockton, Wiltshire, and took an active part in local life, working for a neighbouring farmer and acquiring a wide range of expertise.

In the mid-1950s she was enlisted by the Wiltshire Archaeology Society to join rescue digs, and this gave a focus to her interests in history and pre-history. Her son having left to go up to Oxford, in 1961 she entered the Institute of Archaeology of London University, specialising in European pre-history, and it was here that her enthusiasm for early Greek civilisation was kindled.

Having been awarded the postgraduate diploma after two years, she took up a studentship at the British School of Athens, which soon became a second home to her, and where many of her lasting friendships were formed. She also developed close contacts with her Greek colleagues, who soon invited her to take part in their excavations.

By 1971 she had gained sufficient authority to be put in charge of an important rescue dig, prior to the flooding of the area, in Servia in Northern Greece. This was organised jointly by the Greek Archaeological Service and the British School.

From then on she spent many months every year at the site, braving the strenuous drive across Europe in her car. It was not an easy assignment: for a long time the area lacked electricity and even adequate water supplies. By the time the dig had to stop, much important evidence had been collected, which she continued to evaluate and to classify.

A few weeks before her death, she was able to check the galley proofs of the first volume of the official report, which is shortly to be published by the British School. Welcome as this report will be to experts, it cannot possibly convey the dedication and endurance which lie behind it. It has been said of her that at every dig in which she took part she was sure to be found at the bottom of the deepest trench, directing the work.

She was known to excel in the observation and interpretation of stratification and she had a special gift for working in a team, harmonising conflicting interests and coping with national and professional rivalries.

It was only in the most recent years that a broken hip put an end to her travels. Although she chose to live alone, she kept in close touch with colleagues and friends and took great pleasure in watching her grandchildren grow up.

She is survived by her son, Sir Adam Ridley.



Cressida Ridley (right) on an archaeological dig at Marrisos in northern Greece, about 1990

LUCIEN CONEIN

Lucien Conein, former CIA agent, died in Bethesda, Maryland, on June 3 aged 79. He was born in Paris in 1919.

THE life and exploits of Lucien Conein seemed to spring from an espionage novel, and the American Cold War spy who was also the first head of President Nixon's drug enforcement agency did little to dispel that notion. Conein, a legendary storyteller, embellished his romantic reputation as a secret agent with details which were often utterly fantastic, yet equally impossible to disprove. "Don't believe anything I tell you. I'm an expert liar," was his constant refrain.

The author and journalist Stanley Karnow, who wrote *Vietnam: A History*, once toyed with the notion of writing a biography of Conein, but even such a resolute researcher was forced to abandon the project after coming to the conclusion that it was impossible to sort fact from fiction when it came to Conein's colourful life.

Yet, his self-consciously inscrutable exterior apart, Conein was genuinely the last of a dying breed of Cold War spies. During his career with the CIA he ran agents behind the Iron Curtain in the early 1950s, and worked as the chief contact with South Vietnamese generals in the 1960s.

In later life he was recruited to administer covert operations for the US Drug Enforcement Agency, and by the end of his career, Colonel Conein's decorations included a Distinguished Service Cross, a Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster, a Bronze Star and the CIA's Intelligence Star.

Lucien Conein was born in Paris, but was sent at the age of five by his widowed mother to Kansas City to live with his aunt, who was a French war bride. When the Second World War began in Europe in 1939, Conein joined the French Army, only to return to the US after the fall of France in 1940. Enlisting next in the US Army, Conein was assigned to the Office of Strategic Services (forerunner of the CIA), and trained to parachute behind enemy lines.

With France liberated in 1944, Conein was reassigned by the OSS to southern China, and joined a French-Vietnamese commando team assembled to attack a Japanese post in North Vietnam. In 1947, following the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency,



Conein was recruited as an agent and was soon regarded as "indispensable" — to use the description of Henry Cabot Lodge, then a Senator and later to become American Ambassador first at the United Nations and then to Vietnam. Conein recruited and sent spies into Eastern Europe, and trained paramilitary forces in Iran.

In 1954 he was sent to Saigon, where his job was to organise anti-Communist guerrillas in North Vietnam. One common ploy he devised at the time was to stage funerals without a corpse and then bury a coffin filled with weapons for later use by the guerrillas. Unlike most of his fellow American officers, Conein built up a fund of trust among South Vietnamese military officers, largely because of his French background. Using this to their advantage, when the CIA was looking to send an agent back into the area in 1962, it once again assigned Conein.

During his second period in Vietnam, Conein became a vital link between the US Embassy in Saigon and the South Vietnamese generals who were plotting the assassination of South Vietnam's autocratic President, Ngo Dinh Diem. It was Conein who relayed America's unofficial approval of the murder, which was carried out in November 1963 after Diem had been deposed and placed under arrest.

Conein retired from the CIA in 1968, unhappy about LBJ's escalation of the American Forces in Vietnam but he returned there shortly afterwards to scout opportunities for a private business in surplus trading.

According to a story, now firmly part of Conein lore, he was contacted in 1971 by E. Howard Hunt to join a team of "plumbers" working for President Nixon on what was to become the Watergate break-in. Conein declined Hunt's offer but later bragged that if he had been on board no mistakes would have been made.

In 1972 Conein was hired by the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs as a consultant to its intelligence section, and by the end of that year he was given a permanent position with the Drug Enforcement Agency. President Nixon appointed him head of Special Operations a year later, and until 1984 Conein ran the section under a heavy cloak of secrecy. Subsequent Senate hearings into the activities of the Agency revealed that Conein recruited former CIA agents for staff, and allegedly gave tacit approval to efforts to kidnap and assassinate drug barons responsible for the flow of narcotics into the United States.

Conein retired from the agency in 1984, and receded from public view, although he did allow himself to be interviewed by Norman Mailer for background on his the author's book on the CIA, *Harlot's Ghost*.

He is survived by his wife Elyette, six sons and one daughter.

THE VEN ARCHIE BRIGGS

The Ven Archie Briggs, sometime Archdeacon of Sabah, Malaysia, died in Durham on June 4 aged 81. He was born on February 4, 1917.

IN China during the turmoil of the Cultural Revolution, Archie Briggs was instrumental in assisting desperate youngsters to the safety of Hong Kong and the care of relatives there. Later he was in the Malaysian state of Sabah on the island of Borneo after independence, when the Church was very hard pressed because of the withdrawal of work permits from expatriate missionaries.

He stayed on well beyond his officially allotted time, and promoted the ordination of senior Chinese laymen to enable the Church to continue its ministry. He trained the two present bishops in Sabah following their ordinations, and the seeds he sowed now bear fruit in the strong and vibrant Anglican Church in Sabah today.

The son of a sergeant in the Royal Artillery, Archibald Briggs was educated at the Johnson School and University College, Durham, where he came under the influence of the then Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, Michael Ramsey. He was ordained during the war to a title at Outwood in the diocese of Wakefield but the rest of his active ministry was spent abroad. He first went to China, where his duties included chaplaincy service at the British Embassy in Peking.

After the forced exodus of missionaries from China in the early 1950s, he joined the Australian Bush Brotherhood of St Barnabas in 1953, happily serving at the mining town of Mount Isa in northern Queensland. However, James Wong, the Assistant Bishop of



Borneo, prevailed upon Briggs to join him there, and so his Chinese ministry was resumed.

As a bachelor, Briggs tended to be itinerant, having no family ties, and certainly no wish to lay up treasures upon earth. He was a good example of the pilgrim, travelling light and always ready to move on. Wherever he went, he was accompanied by his faithful amah, Lee En Jim, who looked after him.

His life was disciplined but never hurried, which perhaps explains why his pastoral ministry was so effective. He was a born pastor who always enjoyed spending time freely with his multiracial flock and the community at large.

He had an affection for the Chinese people and kept his ear close to the ground. He spoke Mandarin and also had a good working knowledge of Malay. He saw the division of the diocese of Borneo in 1962, followed by the achievement of independence within Malaysia the following year. He was Archdeacon from 1963 to 1971, and Dean of the Cathedral in Kota Kinabalu from 1971 to 1974. He was the last expatriate missionary to leave Sabah, having served in Borneo for 15 years. He then spent the last ten years of his ministry in Taiwan and, on retirement, returned to his roots in Durham.

Of a quiet and modest nature, he had the happy knack of breaking the ice, whether it was in a coffee shop in Borneo, on a long-distance flight or among Asian students on the streets of Durham.

In retirement, he worshipped at Durham Cathedral, where he won a circle of good friends, who rallied round him when he found it difficult to cope towards the end.

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHDAYS

CLARD - Thomas Arthur William, happy 21st Birthday, all our love Mummy and daddy XXXXXXXX

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BRIDGE

THE ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS

From Our Bridge Correspondent

Should the laws of bridge be strictly enforced? Most of us when bluntly faced with this question would answer unhesitatingly in the affirmative. A little reflection, however, might lead us to modify our views.

It has been estimated that there are in this country some two million bridge players. In expert circles, in competitions, in club play, and in other centres where the standard of play is fairly good, every player is expected to know the laws though not all of them do. Here the laws should be strictly enforced, and it would be a mistake to overlook breaches, for it would tend to lower the standard and lead to general slackness.

The vast majority of the players in this country, however, have only a cursory knowledge of the laws and any attempt to enforce them in the circles in which they play would probably lead to long discussions, a hurried search for a bridge book which contained the laws, and possibly a debate upon the interpretation of the ruling given there.

This problem of the strict enforcement of the laws has recently received some attention in America, where Mr. Albert H. Morehead, one of Mr. Culbertson's principal lieutenants, in the *Bridge World*, of which he is consulting editor, has declared that the laws should very seldom be strictly enforced.

Average players in America apparently differ little from those in this country. Mr. Morehead describes them as awfully nice people to whom bridge is not a game but a form of entertainment. They are not competitive as regards the play but only as regards the result. There is no haggling about the tricks won and lost, only about how many points were scored.

The only criticism of bidding comes when somebody stops at a part score and then wins enough tricks to make game, or makes any bid and goes down. If they bid Two Spades and win ten tricks they think they should have bid the game. If a player goes down 100 points, it does not matter if she stops the other side from making a grand slam, it is still assumed that her bidding is open to criticism.

Those who remember the serious young man who partnered Mrs. Culbertson in the team which her husband brought to London some years ago will find it difficult to imagine him joining players of this type, and indeed he tells us "I would rather just sit around and talk than play in a poor bridge game, but, on the other hand, I like people and I like to keep my friends. If they want to play bridge with me that is all right too. So, when they revoke, I ask them please to follow suit and let it go at that. When they lead out of turn, I ask the proper person to lead, unless it's too much trouble. When they bid out of turn, I advise them to call the bid off and forget about it so that the other people can bid in turn. The laws are devised to provide an adequate remedy when a player gains an unintentional but nevertheless unfair advantage."

"I assure you that the average bridge player would not pay enough attention either to his hand or to the game to get an unfair advantage from anything that might be said or done. No lead, no bid, no remark, no exposure of a card can possibly affect the otherwise smooth course of the game. The only thing that disturbs the average bridge game is to waste a lot of time talking about laws that no one understands or cares about, anyway."

ON THIS DAY

June 18, 1940

The only thing that disturbs the average bridge game, we are told, is to waste a lot of time talking about laws that no one understands or cares about, anyway. What better laws than Mrs Battle's — "A clear fire, a clean hearth and the rigour of the game"

NEWS

US joins Japan in fight for yen

■ America and Japan joined forces yesterday to halt the freefall in the yen that has threatened to plunge Asia — and potentially the world economy — into a dangerous slump.

The rescue operation, estimated to have cost $2 billion (£1.25 billion), came after telephone calls between President Clinton and Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister. **Pages 1, 29**

Beckett loses low pay battle

■ Relations between Margaret Beckett and Gordon Brown were seriously strained after the Trade President lost her battle over the national minimum wage. Mrs Beckett, who had been pressing for the recommendations of the Low Pay Commission to be implemented in full, will announce today that the rate for 18 to 21-year-olds is to start at £3 an hour, 20p lower than proposed ..... **Page 1**

Peanut warning

Up to 200,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers were warned not to eat peanuts or peanut products to protect their children from allergies ..... **Page 1**

Beans are dropped

The baked bean, for years a staple part of the sporting diet, has been dropped by England's World Cup squad because the sauce contained too much sugar. Brocolli and spinach have been brought on as substitutes ..... **Page 1**

Dome duo

The designers of the giant statue that will dominate the Millennium Dome have drawn up plans to give it two torsos, one with a woman's breasts and the other the chest of a man ..... **Page 1**

Christie breaks down

Linford Christie broke down at the High Court as he launched a libel action over claims by John McVicar, the robber turned author, that he used drugs ... **Page 5**

Rail crash chaos

Huge delays disrupted thousands of rail passengers when a fleet of high-speed trains was withdrawn from service after a cracked wheel derailed an express ..... **Page 8**

Woodward sued

The parents of Matthew Eappen, who died at the hands of Louise Woodward, are seeking damages and trying to prevent her from selling her story ..... **Page 9**

Tumim fall-out

Sir Stephen Tumim fell out with the dons of St Edmund Hall, Oxford, and agreed to resign as Principal only after legal negotiations following a no confidence vote by tutors ..... **Page 14**

EU accord on gases

After two days of bargaining, Britain clinched an accord among European Union states on the reduction in greenhouse gases ..... **Page 17**

Crusade for chimp

A chimpanzee which beat a team of international stockbrokers in a share tipping contest and then became a TV star in Sweden has been found in a 12 ft by 12 ft cage in Thailand ..... **Page 18**

Bhutto accounts

Pakistani investigators uncovered 36 secret bank accounts belonging to Benazir Bhutto and her husband in Switzerland, Britain, France and America, a government official said ..... **Page 19**

Serbs dig in

The Serbs reinforced a key Kosovo mountain pass, confirming their determination that no forces will withdraw until guerrillas take similar action ..... **Page 20**

Klan on march

Ku Klux Klan members are to march through the East Texas town of Jasper, where a black man was allegedly dragged to his death by racists ..... **Page 21**

That's not the way to do it, Mr Punch

■ Punch, the baby-bashing, Judy-thrashing bigot, has been told his politically incorrect days are numbered and ordered to clean up his domestic act. After a string of complaints, the violent puppet is threatened with banishment by Chesterfield town council when the curtain goes down at the end of this season unless he mends his ways ..... **Page 12**

BRENTON EDWARDS



A telephone bidder at a London titles auction yesterday when the Lordship of Kensington was sold for £117,000 to George Eyton-Jones, a property developer. He will offer it as a free perk to the buyer of a £5 million mansion near Kensington Palace

BUSINESS

Earnings surprise: Increases in average earnings accelerated to 5.2 per cent in March from 4.9 per cent in February, raising new fears over the outlook for inflation and interest rates ..... **Page 29**

Rough diamond: Diamond sales fell 41 per cent in the first half of 1998, on the back of deepening economic strife in the Far East, according to De Beers ..... **Page 29**

Thorn sale: Thorn, the troubled electrical appliances company, is to sell its US rentals business for £545 million, promising most of the proceeds to shareholders ..... **Page 29**

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 103.0 to 5832.7. The pound rose .59 cents to $1.6587 and fell .17 pfennigs to DM2.9702. The pound index fell to 105.8 from 106.1 ..... **Page 32**

SPORT

Cricket: England called Graeme Hick, Jack Russell and Steve James into their squad for the second Test because of concern about injuries to Alec Stewart and Mark Butcher ..... **Page 56**

World Cup: Austria snatched a draw against Chile with a 90th minute goal in their group B match in St Etienne. Both teams now have two points ..... **Page 52**

Tennis: Cedric Pioline, last year's losing Wimbledon finalist, was disqualified from the Nottingham Open for swearing at the umpire over a controversial call ... **Page 49**

Golf: Lee Westwood, Europe's best golfer at the moment, is the name on everyone's lips as the US Open championship gets under way in San Francisco ..... **Page 54**

ARTS

After friendship: How Jennifer Aniston made the transition from the cult television sitcom *Friends* to the big screen for Nicholas Hytner's film *The Object of My Affection* ..... **Page 38**

New movies: Nicolas Cage and Meg Ryan have an unearthly encounter in the romantic comedy *City of Angels* — plus the rest of the week's cinema releases ..... **Page 39**

Stage gamble: Energetic extravagance marks the London staging of a post-Restoration oddity, *The Basset Table*; plus a West End transfer, and a gardening delight ... **Page 40**

After Victor: Hans Liberg, a former jazz pianist being hailed as the new Victor Borge, is bringing his fizzing brand of comedy-recital to the South Bank ..... **Page 41**

FEATURES

Dr Thomas Stuttaford: The importance of neighbourhood pharmacies; oral cancers; CD-Roms on medical conditions; edible vaccines and ginko leaves and dementia ..... **Page 22**

Society dogs: The It Dog is sweeping into high society. What next, the It Cat? ..... **Page 23**

Getting fit: If you're a woman, you're probably reading this wearing a bra that doesn't fit, one you haven't been measured for and one that isn't very comfortable. Sally Morris has good news ..... **Page 23**

BOOKS

Reviews: Roger Scruton wonders whether he is up to reviewing an encyclopaedia of philosophy — but goes ahead; Saul David takes tea with opium-smokers and brothel-creepers ..... **Pages 42, 43**

TRAVEL

Best buys: A train deal to Manchester for soap addicts; Turkey tees up some golf holidays; a Tunisian beach break ..... **Page 44**

THE PARROT

It must be made abundantly clear to these English yobs that their shameful and uncivilised behaviour is unwelcome at this world spectacular. They must be herded like sheep and guarded like dangerous criminals. They are disgusting and a disgrace.

— *Daily Nation* (Kenya)



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ MEDIA
Can this man bring back the joys of great BBC sitcoms such as *The Vicar of Dibley*?

■ EDUCATION
Why American universities offer visitors a great way to look and learn

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Troubles pile up for Jemma Redgrave's Victorian doctor. *Bramwell* (ITV, 8pm). **Review:** Joe Joseph gets his brain round Professor Winston ..... **Pages 54, 55**

OPINION

Depression alert

Stabilising the yen is absolutely critical. China, which is enduring a lot of pain, has hinted that the yen's continued fall could take the yuan down with it; Hong Kong's peg to the dollar could then collapse. That would set off another round of extreme financial turbulence in the region ..... **Page 25**

Terror in Kosovo

A guerrilla is not the same as a terrorist; and the Kosovo Liberation Army are terrorists no longer ..... **Page 25**

Sharpe practice

New Oxford's principals were expected to sing for their port, by raising the millions that had changed the Hall in such horrible ways ..... **Page 25**

BOOKMARK

ANATOLE KALETSKY
Forget the football hooligans in Marseilles. The people who are really letting Britain down and holding us all up to international derision are the chairman of your Rotary Club and the president of the local chamber of commerce ..... **Page 24**

PETER RIDDELL
The Cardiff summit was longer on promises of future action and populist gestures than on specific achievements. But it did mark a *potentially* important shift as Tony Blair talked more warmly than before about monetary union ..... **Page 16**

JOHN BRYANT
Can it be long before the football terraces erupt to the wonderful, though unlikely chant of "There's only one Alan Clark"? The Conservative MP and former minister has come to the defence of English football troublemakers ..... **Page 57**

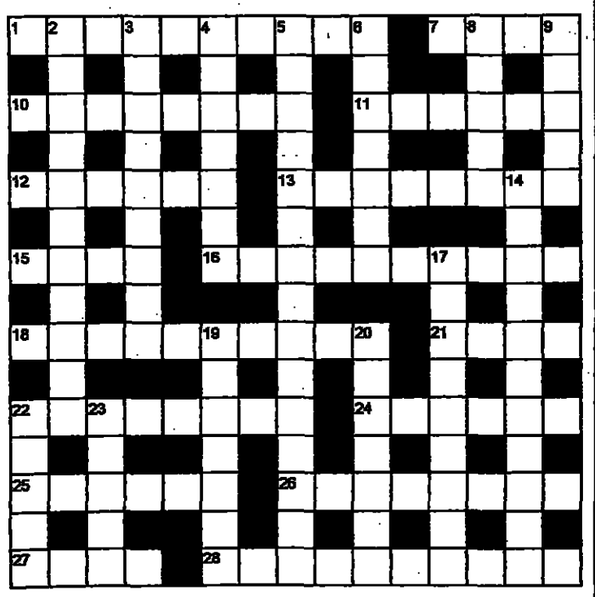
OBITUARIES

Jackie McGlew, South African cricketer; **Cressida Ridley**, archaeologist; **Lucien Conein**, CIA agent; **The Ven Archie Briggs**, Archdeacon of Sabah, Malaysia ..... **Page 27**

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,821



ACROSS

1 Violently flap, on this being reached? (5,5).
7 Commons drudge (4).
10 Charming bar that attracts Olympic finalists (8).
11 Discover doctor breaking the law (6).
12 Stick notice at this point (6).
13 Twice discontinue wrestling attack (4,4).
15 Transfer highly rated player, say (4).
16 Belief I can change to someone's advantage (10).
18 Reserves of courage needed for this environmental measure? (6,4).
21 Sent to Coventry, gaining point and winning (4).
22 I go armed, disguised as an Oriental character (8).
24 Marking out front of garden (6).
25 Bones, for example, hound got with drink (3,3).
26 Rev up? (3-5).
27 Smooth, uncompressed snow on the way back (4).
28 Describing Victorian poverty, treating acne in kids (10).

DOWN

2 See old noble had cracked up (2,3,6).
3 Seeing that balance is least affected (9).
4 Rosemary, for example, making fuss over bishop (3-4).
5 Casual air in play? (10,5).
6 Something repulsive in sack (4-3).
8 Teacher's pet getting time off (5).
9 Fish, cold and raw (5).
14 Train destination a number of Americans made famous (11).
17 Fellow removes end with screwdrivers, possibly (9).
19 Object about fashion that makes one very angry (7).
20 Steel band supporting family here in Scotland (7).
22 Problem kids (5).
23 Remove from paper as erroneous (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20820

B	A	C	K	L	I	S	T		D	O	S	A	G	E
Y		A		E		S		E		H		N		
H	O	L	L	O	W	N	E	S	S		I	C	O	N
E		L		N		S		E		N		S		
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	R		P		R		T		T		L		I	
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E	F	F	E	T	E		P	E	D	I	M	E	N	T

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MARKETS

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 4.43 am — Sun sets: 9.21 pm
Moon sets 2.10 pm — Moon rises 1.41 am

New moon June 24
London 9.21 pm to 4.43 am
Bristol 9.30 pm to 4.53 am
Edinburgh 10.02 pm to 4.26 am
Manchester 9.41 pm to 4.39 am
Penzance 9.35 pm to 5.12 am

FORECAST

General: England and Wales will have a dull morning with rain and mist over west-facing coasts and hills. The rain will become lighter and more patchy in afternoon with chance of brightness in some southern areas. Northern Ireland and southern Scotland will also be mainly cloudy with rain likely, but northern Scotland is expected to be mainly bright.

Tonight southern England, East Anglia and the southern Midlands will be muggy and cloudy with patches of mist.

London, SE, Cent S, SW England, E Midlands: rain in morning; drier, brighter later. Quite warm and humid where sun breaks through. Max 22C (72F).

E Anglia, E, Cent N, NE England, W Midlands, Wales, Lakes, IoM: dull and very wet at first, but rain will become lighter and more patchy. Max 20C (68F).

Channel Isles: mostly dry with some hazy sunshine. Max 19C (66F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow: mostly cloudy with some rain, especially in south. Max 18C (64F).

Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: one or two light showers, but mostly dry and bright. Cool wind. Max 15C (59F).

N Ireland: mainly cloudy with some rain and drizzle, mostly in morning. Light, variable winds. Max 18C (64F).

Outlook: becoming warmer.

Pollen forecast: low — Scotland, N England, N Ireland; moderate — Wales, Midlands, E Anglia; high — London and rest of S England

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.4	-	16	61	b	Kinloss	9.8	0.01	17	63	s
Anglesey	2.7	0.12	15	59	r	Leeds	4.6	0.01	18	64	c
Aspatria	13.2	-	17	63	c	Lerwick	14.4	0.01	12	54	sh
Aviemore	7.4	0.01	17	63	b	Leuchars	12.5	0.09	19	66	s
Belfast	4.2	-	17	63	s	Littlehmptn	3.2	-	18	64	b
Birmingham	2.0	0.13	16	61	r	London	4.7	0.07	19	66	sh
Bognor R	6.0	0.02	17	63	b	Lowestoft	6.0	0.01	17	63	sh
Bristol	3.4	0.11	17	63	d	Manchester	3.8	0.25	15	59	sh
Buxton	3.5	0.19	14	57	du	Margate	4.8	-	18	64	b
Cardiff	X	0.14	17	63	r	Morecambe	6.4	-	16	61	c
Clacton	X	0.01	16	61	sh	Newcastle	12.1	0.02	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	8.7	-	17	63	s	Norwich	6.9	0.01	17	63	b
Colwyn Bay	3.7	0.06	16	61	c	Oxford	4.0	0.01	18	64	c
Cromer	9.0	-	16	61	s	Penzance	X	0.01	17	63	sh
Dunbar	13.3	-	16	61	s	Prestatyn	X	0.11	17	63	r
Eastbourne	5.2	0.03	17	63	b	Ross on Wye	2.6	0.04	16	61	sh
Edinburgh	12.0	0.04	19	66	c	Salcombe	3.0	-	16	61	c
Eskdalemuir	12.1	0.02	17	63	s	Saunton Snd	3.6	-	15	59	c
Exmouth	3.5	0.01	16	61	c	Scarboro'	8.2	0.01	18	61	s
Fishguard	3.2	0.17	14	57	r	Shrewsbury	2.7	0.09	17	63	r
Folkestone	4.7	-	19	66	b	Skegness	6.9	-	17	63	s
Glasgow	16.7	-	19	66	s	Southend	3.9	-	18	64	du
Guernsey	4.8	-	18	64	s	Southport	X	0.12	14	57	r
Hastings	4.3	0.01	17	63	c	Southsea	11.3	0.01	18	64	r
Hayling I.	6.0	0.08	18	64	sh	Stornoway	13.1	0.01	14	57	sh
Hove	7.9	-	17	63	s	Swanage	5.7	-	16	61	b
Hunstanton	8.4	0.01	17	63	s	Teignmouth	3.5	0.01	17	63	c
Isle of Man	6.0	0.01	15	59	s	Tenby	2.5	0.19	15	59	d
Isle-of-wight	8.4	0.02	17	63	b	Tiree	14.0	-	14	57	s
Jersey	7.0	-	18	64	b	Torquay	3.5	-	17	63	b

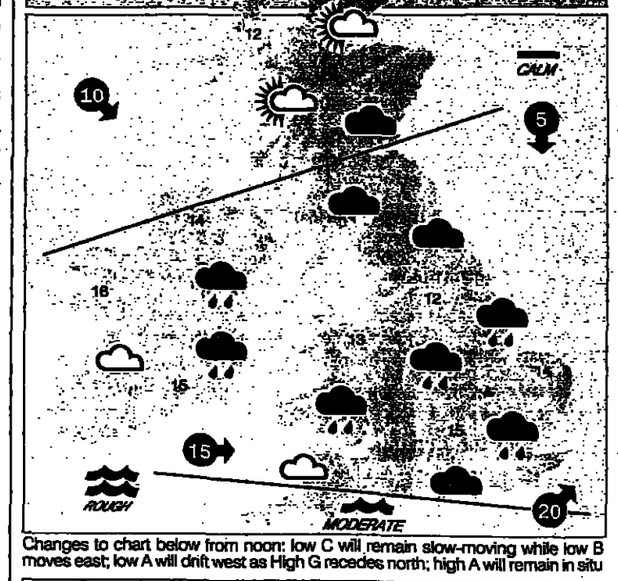
ABROAD

Ajaccio	22	72	s	Cologne	17	63	f	Luxor	42	108	s
Akrotiri	29	84	s	Corfu	28	82	s	Madrid	23	73	f
Alex'dria	28	82	s	C'phagn	12	54	r	Majorca	26	79	f
Algiers	26	77	f	Dublin	15	59	s	Malaga	24	75	f
Amst'dm	15	59	c	Dubrovnik	24	75	f	Malta	27	81	s
Athens	28	82	s	Faro	23	73	s	Melb'rne	11	52	f
B Aires	13	55	c	Florence	25	77	f	Mexico C	26	79	s
Bahrain	13	55	s	Frankfurt	18	64	c	Miami	33	91	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Funchal	22	72	s	Milan	24	75	f
Barbados	29	84	f	Geneva	17	63	f	Montreal	21	70	f
Barcelona	22	72	s	Gibraltar	23	73	s	Moscow	25	77	f
Beijing	35	95	s	Helsinki	23	73	s	Munich	15	59	c
Beirut	25	77	f	Hong K	31	88	c	N Delhi	24	75	r
Belgrade	28	79	c	Innsbruck	13	55	f	N York	27	81	s
Berlin	18	64	f	Istanbul	28	82	s	Nairobi	23	73	f
Bermuda	28	82	f	Jeddah	33	91	s	Naples	26	77	s
Biarritz	18	64	f	Jo'burg	21	70	s	Nice	21	70	s
Borde'x	18	64	r	Karachi	X	X	X	Oslo	11	52	c
Brussels	17	63	f	L Angels	17	63	d	Paris	16	61	c
Budapst	20	68	s	L Palmas	24	75	s	Perth	19	66	s
Cairo	32	90	s	Le Touqt	15	59	f	Prague	13	55	r
Cape Tn	18	64	c	Lisbon	25	77	s	Reykjavik	12	54	f
Ch'church	9	48	X	Locarno	X	X	X	Rhodes	27	81	s
Chicago	25	77	s	Luxembg	13	55	r	Rio de J	19	66	s

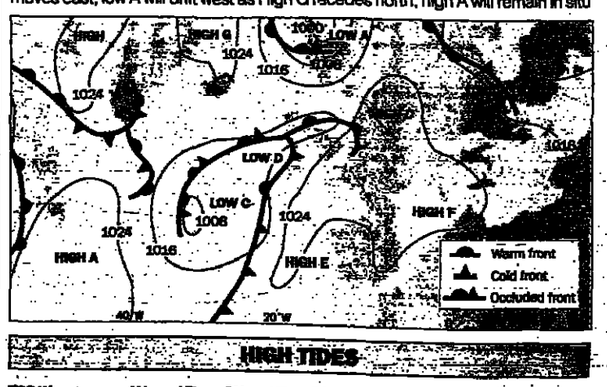
Riyadh	43	109	s						
Rome	22	72	f						
S Fr'isco	22	72	s						
Salzburg	16	61	c						
Santiago	12	54	c						
Seoul	26	79	f						
Sing'por	33	91	f						
St'kholm	14	57	r						
Strasb'rg	18	64	c						
Sydney	16	61	s						
Tangier	26	79	s						
Tel Aviv	29	84	s						
Tenerife	29	79	s						
Tokyo	25	77	s						
Toronto	22	72	c						
Tunis	27	81	s						
Valencia	22	72	f						
Vanc'ver	16	61	s						
Venice	22	72	f						
Vienna	21	70	s						
Warsaw	16	61	t						
Wash'ton	20	68	c						
Wel'ngton	11	52	X						
Zurich	14	57	c						

Temperatures at midday local time on Tuesday. X = not available

NOON TODAY



Changes to chart below from noon: low C will remain slow-moving while low B moves east; low A will drift west as High G recedes north; high A will remain in situ



HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	7:18	3.7	20:18	3.6	Liverpool	5:00	8.4	17:42	8.0
Avonmouth	0:39	11.3	13:10	11.0	London Bridge	7:39	6.4	19:54	6.3
Belfast	4:46	3.2	17:39	3.0	Lowestoft	3:43	2.1	15:22	2.8
Cardiff	0:25	10.5	12:56	10.3	Margate	5:52	4.3	18:06	4.3
Devonport	11:31	4.7	-	-	Milford Haven	-	-	12:24	5.7
Dover	5:00	5.8	17:27	6.0	Newquay	11:25	5.8	23:59	6.0
Dublin	5:33	3.7	18:31	3.6	Oban	11:53	3.0	-	-
Falmouth	11:02	4.5	23:31	4.7	Penzance	10:59	4.6	23:23	4.8
Greenock	6:12	3.2	18:55	3.1	Portland	0:09	1.5	12:59	1.5
Harwich	5:35	3.6	17:52	3.5	Portsmouth	5:10	4.1	18:06	4.3
Holyhead	4:12	5.0	17:00	4.7	Shoreham	5:00	5.4	17:41	5.6
Hull (Albert D)	-	-	12:11	7.7	Southampton	4:31	4.1	17:14	4.2
Ilfracombe	-	-	12:04	7.6	Swansea	-	-	12:30	7.9
King's Lynn	0:14	5.4	12:19	5.7	Tees	9:46	5.0	22:39	4.9
Leith	8:23	4.9	21:22	4.8	Walton-On-Naze	5:33	3.8	17:49	3.7

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Fair Isle, Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Hawarden, Flintshire, 0.43in; highest sunshine: Glasgow 16.7hr.

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THE TIMES

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Bronwen Maddox on the changing mood of the US economy
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ARTS
Meg Ryan gets set for an angelic movie encounter
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SPORT
Westwood sets his heart on San Francisco
PAGES 45-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY JUNE 18 1998

Earnings growth fuels rate fear

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS EDITOR

A SHARP rise in average earnings yesterday raised fears of another increase in interest rates as the Bank of England considers further action to tackle inflation.

The City, sure only a fortnight ago that interest rates had peaked, is now deeply divided on the issue after the Government revealed average earnings rose by 5.2 per cent in March, ahead of City expectations and well above the current rate of inflation. The increase in February was 4.9 per cent.

Bonuses fuelled the advance in earnings, with wages in manufacturing rising by a surprising 5.6 per cent, despite the squeeze from Asia and from the strength of the pound. In the service sector earnings rose 5.3 per cent.

Some City economists believe that, taken together with Tuesday's rise in the retail prices index, the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee may feel obliged to lift interest rates again when it meets next month.

It was February's jump in earnings to 4.9 per cent from 4.6 per cent that was cited by the MPC as the main justification for its decision to raise base rates at its June 4 meeting.

A poll conducted by Reuters yesterday showed that eight out of 21 economists believed base rates would rise further from their new level of 7.50 per cent, peaking at 7.75 or even 8.00 per cent. The remaining 13 economists said that rates would stay at their current level but expressed uncertainty about their predictions.

Economists noted that the real culprit for recent scares on wage inflation has been very high bonus payments bunched in March. Some of these have reflected overtime payments in manufacturing but even more influential has been large bonuses in the City.

The March earnings figures are a weighted average of figures for February, March and April but have been dominated by the March bonuses. Separate Office for National Statistics data showed that earnings growth fell back in April. In manufacturing, year-on-year growth fell to 5.5 per cent from 6.3 per cent. In services, earnings edged back to 5.3 per cent from 5.4 per cent. Private sector earnings growth overall stuck at 6.1 per cent in April, the same as in March.

Unemployment data for April showed the labour market is creating fewer jobs now than it did in 1997, a sign that the economy is slowing.

The International Labour Organisation measure of unemployment, recently adopted as the Government's headline rate, fell by 35,000 in the three months to April, a much more modest decline than the 60,000 in the period from November to January. The old headline rate — the claimant count — showed a marginal rise of 1,700 to 1,364,300. This was the first time this measure of joblessness has shown an increase since February, 1996.

Commentary, page 31

BANKS LEAD WAY FOR BIG BONUS PAYOUTS

BANKS and other financial institutions were among the biggest bonus payers (Richard Miles writes).

A bull run on both UK and US stock markets, coupled with a boom in mergers and acquisitions, has helped to bump up bonuses in many of the City's investment banks by an estimated 25 per cent. Some of the highest rewards went to investment bankers. Bill Harrison received £4 million for a 13-month tenure as chief executive of BZW. But staff at all levels within high street banks and insurers have also received hefty cash bonuses.

Retailers have also been handing out large bonuses. John Lewis, the department store, gave staff 22 per cent in March, although, as a partnership, its practices are not typical of the sector.

The level of UK bonuses pale when compared with the payments made to Wall Street. Andrew Stone of Credit Suisse First Boston is believed to have been awarded $80 million in March.

Blunkett warns on private sector salaries

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

ACUTE skills shortages, particularly in construction and information technology, are driving up salaries, adding to inflationary pressures.

Managers' pay in the construction sector is now rising at up to 15 per cent, with the sharpest rises occurring in London and the South East, according to *Construction Journal*, the trade magazine. Senior project manager posts carry a salary of up to £65,000 plus benefits, compared with £50,000 only a year ago.

Publishing monthly figures for unemployment and average earnings, the Office for National Statistics said skills shortages do not appear to have worsened. But it said the number of unfilled vacancies was "at a very high level".

Yesterday David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, urged business to invest in skills and training, rather than paying higher wages, if it wanted to avoid further rate rises.

He warned delegates at the British Chamber of Commerce (BCC) annual conference in Birmingham that the rise in private sector earnings would "undoubtedly affect the attitude of the members of the Monetary Policy Committee".

Mr Blunkett's comments, however, received a cool reception from BCC members who were annoyed by the implication that the Government is trying to interfere in private sector wage settlements.

John Entwistle, President of the BCC, said: "Politicians do not have to nanny to keep wages in check. The aim of business is to minimise costs but many increases are a necessary response to skills shortages in many areas."

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	5832.7	(+103.0)
Yield	2.84%	
FTSE All share	2765.85	(+35.66)
Nikkei	14715.39	(-5.00)
New York:		
Dow Jones	8855.61	(+190.32)*
S&P Composite	1108.29	(+20.70)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5¹⁵/₁₆%	(5¹/₂%)
Long Bond	105¹³/₃₂*	(106⁵/₈)
Yield	5.71%*	(5.66%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	7¹³/₁₆%	(7¹⁵/₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Sep)	108.71	(109.63)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6617*	(1.6515)
London:		
$	1.6590	(1.6532)
DM	2.9697	(2.9724)
FFr	9.9575	(9.9668)
SFr	2.4753	(2.4752)
Yen	229.15	(238.40)
£ Index	105.8	(106.1)

DOLLAR

London:		
DM	1.7875*	(1.7985)
FFr	5.9825*	(6.0295)
SFr	1.4820*	(1.4965)
Yen	137.63*	(143.30)
$ Index	111.8	(113.6)

Tokyo close Yen 142.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Sep)	$13.90	($13.35)

GOLD

London close	$291.55	($287.65)

* denotes midday trading price

Biotech inquiry

MPs are to hold an inquiry into British Biotech amid fears public confidence in the biotechnology industry has been damaged.
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Courts glee

Courts yesterday claimed to be the United Kingdom's fastest-growing furniture retailer after returning underlying sales growth of 18.6 per cent from October to March.
Page 31, Tempus 32

Markets stage comeback as US moves to support yen

BY JANET BUSH

SHARES in London and New York surged yesterday as America finally acted to support the yen.

The FTSE 100 rose 103 points and Wall Street added more than 200 points, reversing the major setbacks suffered earlier this week after the US Federal Reserve and the Bank of Japan spent an estimated $2 billion buying the yen.

America emphasised that the support came as the *quid pro quo* for promises of "aggressive" action by Japan to stimulate its economy and tackle bad loans in its banking system.

The yen soared from Tuesday's trough of Y146.75, the Japanese currency's lowest level for nearly eight years, to Y137.60 by late European trading.

Tony Norfield, currency strategist at ABN Amro in London, said: "They caught the market nicely short of yen." He said that the authorities appeared to want to keep the dollar below the Y138 level, intervening again when it threatened to bounce higher.

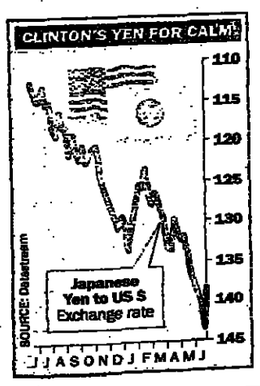
On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average jumped 200 points during the morning session. In London, the FTSE 100 index closed 103 points higher at 5,832.7, its second largest points gain this year. Equity markets in Frankfurt and Paris both showed gains of about 2 per cent.

Even before the currency intervention, stock markets in Asia had surged in response to news that Lawrence Summers, Deputy Secretary at the US Treasury, is flying to Japan for emergency talks on the economy.

South Korean shares shot up by 8.5 per cent, the largest one-day increase to date. In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng surged by 6.3 per cent while shares in Singapore and Thailand rose by 5.6 per cent and 6 per cent respectively.

In Japan itself, the Nikkei 225 index rallied briefly as the yen staged a recovery on news of the Summers visit but, in the end, was overwhelmed by worries about deepening troubles in the banking system.

There was a heavy sell-off of shares in the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan on speculation, dismissed as "groundless" by the bank, that it was in trouble. The Nikkei ended 5 points lower at 14,715.38.



America steps in, page 1
Leading article, page 25
Commentary, page 31



Not so glittering: Asia's economic crisis now affects even 15 carat diamonds like this, although UK sales are ahead

Rough diamond sales by De Beers drop 41%

BY JON ASHWORTH

DE BEERS, the South African diamond group headed by Nicholas Oppenheimer, saw sales of rough gems collapse 41 per cent in the first half of 1998, on the back of economic strife in the Far East.

Sales by the Central Selling Organisation (CSO), which controls 75 per cent of world diamond production, fell to $1.7 billion (£1.03 bilion) compared with $2.88 billion in the first half of 1997. The fall exceeds the worst seen in the recession of the early 1990ties. Japan, which accounts for 24 per cent of sales, experienced further declines and the situation is deteriorating in Korea, Thailand and Indonesia.

The CSO has cut back both its diamond "sights" — where buyers receive their allocations of gems — and on mine quotas, but is looking to a slight increase in deliveries. Cutting centres have shifted about $1 billion in "old" stock, and are now taking in fresh supplies to come into line with consumer demand. Longer-term prospects depend on an upturn in the Far East. De Beers has a diamond stockpile worth $4 billion.

Bright spots include the UK, where diamond sales are up 12 per cent on last year. Canada and India have seen strong growth, but America remains the driving force, with 34 per cent of CSO sales. De Beers said: "Things would be a lot worse if it were not for the United States." America's appetite for diamonds dates from the Forties when an inspired copywriter coined the phrase "A diamond is forever".

The new supply agreement with Russia appears to be holding up, and there has been a reduction in "leakages" of gems from Angola. Rival diamond workings are due to come on stream in Canada in the autumn, threatening to further dilute the CSO's share of the market.

Leap in Thorn shares prompts SE inquiry

BY FRASER NELSON

THORN, the international domestic appliances rental chain that is trying to sell all its overseas businesses, has accepted a $900 million (£545 million) bid for its Rent-a-Center chain in the US.

However, the London Stock Exchange is understood to be investigating why Thorn shares rose by 11 per cent hours before the deal was announced.

Renters Choice, Thorn's largest US competitor, has agreed to accept liability for law suits that may be filed against Rent-a-Center's rent-to-own scheme.

Thorn will retain responsibility for two cases already settled in Minnesota and Pennsylvania. It has made a £23 million provision for these two suits, and is keeping them on in hope of having the fines reduced.

Steve Marshall, chief executive of Thorn, said the disposal still needs the approval of US competition authorities. Renters Choice will have 2,080 stores after the merger — five times more than its next largest competitor.

He said: "If you look at the total television market, the share is tiny. Clearly, we have been taking good advice about the issues involved."

He said the company had taken care to ensure news of the deal did not leak. It was announced at 2pm, after waiting for a simultaneous notice to come out on New York's Nasdaq exchange.

In London, an exceptionally heavy share trade was pushed through before 9.30am, when the shares were still at 208p. They touched 237½p, after a heavy bout of selling saw them close 10½p higher at 210p.

The company, which itself been in takeover talks since April, has made no further progress in lining up buyers for its 1,160 other overseas stores mainly in Europe.

Commentary, page 31

Maxwell director to face BBC allegations

BY JASON NISSÉ

THE ... allege that the former finan... of a large part of the late M...xwell's empire admitted to p... he behaved dishonestly whil... funds from bankers shor... the publisher's death.

F... a BBC programme due ... on Sunday, is believed to h... details of an interview said ... been given to police by Rob... the finance director of the ... companies controlled by Ma...

... alleged to have admitted he ... nestly in pledging shares in ... rnational, the language tra... p, as security for a £2 m... Maxwell private com... pa... Toronto Dominion Bank. T... raised a matter of days b... ell died in November 1991. ... misuse of Berlitz shares ... central theme of the s... ell trial, in which Kevin Maxwell and three other Maxwell advisers were due to face conspiracy and false accounting charges. Mr Bunn, who was acquitted of fraud and theft charges in the first Maxwell trial, was considered too ill to face trial again, having suffered a heart attack.

In any case this trial did not take place because the courts ruled that it would put too much of a burden on Mr Maxwell after the first trial. The cost to the taxpayer of the investigations and trial are estimated at £30 million-plus.

The BBC programme is understood to argue that Mr Bunn's interview — given at Snow Hill police station in October 1992 — was one of the reasons that the Serious Fraud Office was keen to proceed with the second Maxwell trail. Kevin Maxwell accused the SFO of being vindictive and having political motives in attempting to obtain convictions after a jury had already found him not guilty of defrauding pensioners.

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MPs to launch inquiry into British Biotech

By Paul Durman

THE Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons is to hold an inquiry into British Biotech because of its concern that the scandal surrounding the drug development company is damaging public confidence in the biotechnology industry.

At a meeting yesterday, the select committee decided to call Keith McCullagh, British Biotech's chief executive, and Andrew Millar, the dismissed director of clinical research, to face a hearing early next month. Ian Gibson, Labour MP for Norwich North, said the committee was concerned at allegations that data emerging from trials of British Biotech's cancer and pancreatitis drugs was being misinterpreted. "We will probe the data to see who's telling the truth," Dr Gibson said.

Dr Millar has said that the emerging results of clinical studies show that British Biotech's Zacutex will not be effective in pancreatitis and that marimastat, its cancer drug, will not be effective as a single agent in pancreatic cancer. British Biotech insists it has not seen the data on which Dr Millar bases his judgments, and that no firm conclusions can be drawn before the formal end of the trials.

British Biotech was widely seen as the leader of the UK biotech industry. Its plans to develop two potential blockbuster drugs gave it a stock market value that peaked at £2 billion.

Dr Gibson said: "Biotechnology is one of the successes of Britain in European industry. If the public has no confidence in biotechnology, it's going to be very difficult for them to buy the products and take an interest in them." With a strong pharmaceutical research base centred around Glaxo Wellcome, SmithKline Beecham and Zeneca, biotechnology is expected to create thousands of jobs in the UK over the next few years. But four of the largest companies — British Biotech, Biocompatibles International, Cortecs International and Scotia — have decided to part company with their chief executives in controversial circumstances.

British Biotech is already under investigation by the Stock Exchange and by the US Securities and Exchange Commission over concerns that include allegedly misleading statements to investors and directors' share dealings.

British Biotech is suing Dr Millar for breach of confidence but MPs do not believe this should hamper their inquiry.

PolyGram chief may walk away with $10m

By Oliver August and Chris Ayres

ALAIN LEVY, president of PolyGram, is poised to walk away from the Dutch entertainment company with a $10 million (£6 million) payoff amid rumous that he is furious with the sale of the company to Canada's Seagram.

Music industry sources say Mr Levy believed that PolyGram was undervalued when it was sold to Seagram for $10.6 billion (£6.5 billion). Mr Levy's anger is said to be mainly directed at Philips, the Dutch electronics group which sold Seagram its 75 per cent stake in PolyGram.

One source said: "Seagram got that business for a song. Philips do not understand the music business. I guess it's not like building toasters." PolyGram's sale to Seagram was completed in a rush after the Canadian company's takeover talks with EMI of the UK broke down.

Mr Levy has turned PolyGram from a classical music label into a company dominated by pop music and film over the last decade. Its most famous performers include Sheryl Crow and U2, with its film hits including *Bean* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. Analysts on Wall Street said the French-born executive earned about $4 million per year and, with under two years left of his contract, the payoff was likely to be just below $10 million.

Some have suggested that Mr Levy might join EMI and help the company buy PolyGram's film business from Seagram, which is expected to be put on the market later this month with a price tag of about $1 billion. Mr Levy has won respect in the entertainment industry for the way he built up PolyGram's film business from scratch over seven years.

If Seagram's takeover fell apart or if the US regulators objected to the deal, PolyGram would be left leaderless. Philips could then be forced into a fire sale to stem a staff exodus, analysts said.

Mr Levy is already involved in negotiations with music company rivals, but it is expected that he will be barred from hiring former colleagues at PolyGram under the terms of the payoff agreement with Philips and Seagram.

PolyGram will be integrated into Universal Music, the Seagram subsidiary headed by Doug Morris. Seagram was to announce Mr Morris's stewardship over PolyGram this week but pulled back at the last minute.



Michael Green wants Carlton to take full advantage of the worldwide expansion of screen-based entertainment

Carlton to buy $264m Nimbus

By Chris Ayres

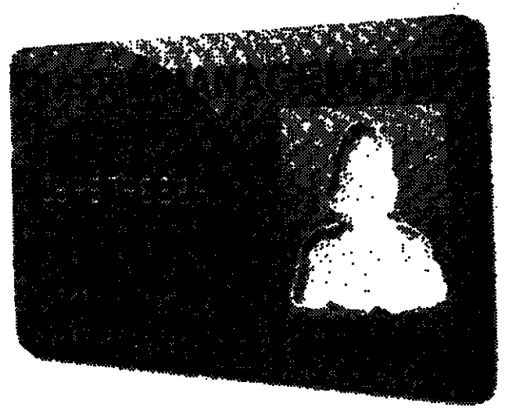
CARLTON Communications, the broadcaster and television services group, yesterday moved into the market for next-generation VHS videos and computer CD-Rom drives with the purchase of America's Nimbus for $264 million (£160 million).

The business will be expanded alongside Carlton's Technicolor division, the world's largest producer of pre-recorded video cassettes and motion picture film. Technicolor has been criticised in the past for failing to embrace new technologies such as DVD (digital video discs), expected to eventually replace VHS videos. Nimbus manufactures DVDs and DVD-Roms, expected to replace CD-Roms.

Carlton will make a cash tender offer of $11.50 per share for Nimbus, which has net assets of $66 million, including net debt of $18 million. Management and major shareholders, who own 4 per cent of the shares, have agreed to the offer. The company reported pre-tax profits for the year to March of $21 million on sales of $130 million.

DVDs are capable of storing an entire film on a CD-sized disc. Although the 1997 launch of the technology in the US attracted little interest, Carlton claims that DVD has enjoyed more comparable success than both VHS and CD technology when they were initially released.

Michael Green, Carlton's chairman, said: "Just as the company added video cassettes to its film operations in the Eighties, now we are adding optical discs in the Nineties. The penetration of VCRs, DVD players and PC disc drives are all growing as part of the worldwide expansion of screen-based entertainment." Shares in Carlton fell 40p to 545p yesterday.



Becket hits back at critics over mergr policy

By Alair Murray

MARGARET BECKETT terday took a swipe at critics of her competition j cies, insisting that she vie "prohibition as the excep and not the rule" in mer cases.

The President of the Bo of Trade, speaking at British Chambers of C merce annual conference Birmingham, claimed that approach to merger po was being wrongly portra as "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde her business-friendly exter concealing her "alter-ego M Blockit" who wanted to cal halt to all merger plans.

Mrs Beckett insisted, ho ever, that she has neither presumption, nor a predil tion for" banning merg activity.

She said that during h year in office she had consi ered 200 mergers and prohi ited just four. Of these fou Mrs Beckett overruled t Monopolies and Merger Cor mittee once — blocking Bass purchase of Carlsberg-Tetle — and in this case she had th support of the Director-Gene al for Fair Trading.

"Merger activity is norma in competitive markets an can stimulate efficiency an improve competitiveness, Mrs Beckett said. "My prima ry concern in assessing merg ers will be competition," sh added. "I consider safeguard ing competition to be in the interest of business as well as consumers."

However, Mrs Beckett admitted that it would be beneficial to provide more information about competition cases to help to end any policy confusion.

"This is why we are committed to giving greater information than has been the norm," she said.

Some of Mrs Beckett's audience later expressed surprise that she had chosen to address the issue of mergers, pointing out that for most of the BCC's members, the strength of the pound, rising interest rates and concerns about a shortage of skills among the workforce were more pressing issues.



Beckett: "not Mrs Blockit"

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

McWilliams issues warning on City jobs

IF THE City of London loses its place as Europe's biggest financial centre, the damage would be spread across the European Community, according to Douglas McWilliams at the Centre for Economics and Business Research. In a study commissioned by the Corporation of London, Professor McWilliams found that the entire European Union would lose 116,000 jobs if financial markets were to fragment and current City players from overseas relocate to their home territory. In addition, the cost of financial services would be 15 per cent higher.

Other European financial centres would not necessarily gain. The study said that 43 per cent of the business lost by the City would go to them, while 28 per cent would go to other financial centres, such as New York and Switzerland, and 29 per cent would simply not take place because of the higher cost of doing business. Professor McWilliams said the City and the EU were therefore interdependent. Judith Mayhew, chairman of the corporation's policy and resources committee, said it was a misconception to see London as being in competition with the rest of Europe.

Home loan rates rise

BARCLAYS and the Woolwich yesterday raised their standard variable mortgage rates by 0.25 per cent to 8.95 per cent, following the lead of other banks, such as Halifax, Abbey National and Northern Rock. The increases are in response to last week's bank base rate rise of 0.25 per cent to 7.5 per cent. Woolwich borrowers will see their repayments rise from June 23, Barclays go up on July 1. Leeds & Holbeck, Nationwide and Bradford & Bingley will not increase rates until August 1.

Chime buys researcher

CHIME COMMUNICATIONS, the public relations and advertising group headed by Sir Tim Bell, has acquired Opinion Leader Research, a market research consultancy, for a maximum of £3.05 million in cash. Chime has paid an initial £1.3 million, with the balance linked to performance and payable over three years. Opinion Leader made a pre-tax profit of £346,000 (£133,000) on turnover of £1.1 million (£675,000) in the year to November 30.

Billiton plans buyback

BILLITON shares, which have performed poorly since listing on the Stock Exchange last year, rose 10¾p to 137¼p yesterday when the mining group said it plans to buy back 10 per cent of its issued capital. At current market levels the buyback could return £300 million to investors. Billiton shares were placed at 220p and Mick Davis, chief financial officer, said the most recent fall in the share price presented an opportunity to buy back cheaply. Tempus, page 32

ISA slides on warning

SHARES in ISA International fell 21½p to 41p yesterday after the troubled computer supplies distributor issued its second profits warning in eight months. The company said 1998 profits would be "materially below" market forecasts after trading fell "well below expectations" last month. Analysts now expect pre-tax profits of £6 million, compared with earlier forecasts of £8.3 million. ISA shares have fallen steadily from a high of 240½p just 18 months ago.

Blow for Amvescap

AMVESCAP, the international fund manager, suffered a blow in its acquisition of GT Global yesterday as one of GT's senior investment managers defected to M&G, a rival fund manager. Nick Train, 39, had been with GT for 17 years and had established a reputation running its income and UK pension funds. His departure is an embarrassment to Amvescap, which had announced that Mr Train would become its retail investment director for its enlarged UK operation.

Car radios to go digital

FIVE radio manufacturers will spell out next month their plans to launch digital car radios this autumn. Blaupunkt, Clarion, Grundig, Kenwood and Pioneer have confirmed their intention to launch the receivers at an expected cost between £500 and £700. The BBC has been encouraging the launch of digital radio by broadcasting all its national channels on digital, plus extra Parliamentary and sports coverage.

Road Runner stakes

MICROSOFT and Compaq have each bought a 10 per cent stake in Road Runner, a company controlled by Time Warner that links 90,000 customers to the Internet via television cables, for a total of $425 million (£261 million), valuing the company at about $2 billion. Computer executives including Bill Gates, chairman of Microsoft, believe that television cables are the ideal medium to deliver Internet services to residential customers, ahead of phone cables or satellites.

CLM seeks buyback

CLM INSURANCE FUND, the Lloyd's insurance trust, net asset value rose to 138.82p a share at the end of 1997, up from 117.49p the previous year. Pre-tax profits rose to £19.2 million from £15.7 million, with an increase in earnings to 15.31p a share from 12.6p. There is a third interim dividend of 10p a share, giving a total of 12.89p from 10.78p. The company is seeking authority to buy back shares to underpin earnings growth as returns from Lloyd's come under pressure in 1998 and 1999.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.02	2.64	Netherlds Gld	3.053	3.238
Austria Sch	21.87	20.21	New Zealand $	3.34	3.10
Belgium Fr	64.34	59.38	Norway Kr	13.17	12.23
Canada $	2.549	2.361	Portugal Esc	316.19	294.16
Cyprus CypE	0.913	0.842	S Africa Rd	9.53	8.56
Denmark Kr	11.89	11.00	Spain Pta	263.07	244.28
Egypt Pound	5.65	5.24	Sweden Kr	14.01	12.91
Finland Mkk	9.57	8.82	Switzerland Fr	2.63	2.41
France Fr	10.41	9.63	Turkey Lira	439635	419787
Germany Dm	3.13	2.89	USA $	1.765	1.622
Greece Dr	529	490			
Hong Kong $	13.66	12.46			
Iceland	130	110			
Ireland Pt	1.23	1.14			
Israel Shk	6.47	5.81			
Italy Lira	3097	2860			
Japan Yen	243.47	225.94			
Malta	0.682	0.623			

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

La Senza's all blamed on lack of support

By Fraser Nelson

LA SENZA, the troubled lingerie chain floated by Suzy Shier of Canada, has accused its former parent company of failing to help in its financial crisis which has led to the launch of a rescue takeover bid.

In a statement issued yesterday, the group said that a "perceived lack of support" from Suzy Shier, which then owned 60 per cent of the es. had scared away s which would otherwise lent it emergency cash.

a result, it continued, had refused to provide more money than La had in reserve — less £3.8 million. This strict- would have "caused sig- nt pressure on the ss in the short term".

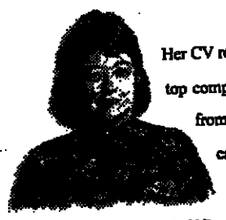
Shier, one of Canada's retailers, sold its ma- o a company controlled o Paphitis, who is also the chairman of Millwall Football Club, for £1 two weeks ago.

Mr Paphitis, who also controls Ryman the stationers and Contessa clothing, is offering 10p a share for the remaining 40 per cent of the company held by institutions and private investors. The bid is being managed through his Xunely company.

Quiet Christmas trading combined with difficulties caused by a delayed expansion programme to push La Senza deeper into the red in the year to January 31. It lost £3.6 million before tax where its deficit last time was £1.49 million. Sales, however, grew to £26.6 million from £18 million.

The loss per share is 10.7p down from 5.9p. There is no dividend. La Senza shares joined the Alternative Investment Market at 160p apiece two years ago. Yesterday they stuck at 10p.

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Britain is not an economic island

COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

The wave of euphoria which swept through markets east and west yesterday smacks of hysteria rather than considered reaction. The first signs of intervention to stop the plummeting yen may be welcome but hardly merit the smart about-turns that sent the FTSE, the Dow and even the Hang Seng steeply upwards.

Only a few hours earlier, a top World Bank official had been preaching that international doom was fast approaching. Jean-Michel Severino, who, as the bank's vice-president for East Asia and the Pacific, should have a feel for how bad things may be in the region, warned that "We are entering into a deep recession," and indicated his fears that this could soon spread beyond Asia and engulf the world.

We need to see a little more than supportive gestures from the United States and a new budget from Japan before we can be sure that such horror has been averted.

But the policymakers at home seem determined to view Britain's economic future in splendid isolation from such international fears. As they confronted a set of historic statistics, the talk was all of over-heating economies and the assumption was once more being drawn that the only remedy would be another twist of the interest rate ratchet.

Putting another quarter per cent on the cost of borrowing may seem to straight-laced members of the Monetary Policy Committee to be a fitting punishment to business and consumers for their past excesses but it fails to take account of the dire economic circumstances that lie ahead. A world slowdown is nigh and Britain will not be immune.

The plethora of figures which purported to portray the state of the UK economy yesterday can be interpreted in as many ways as you have economists to dissect them. Wages have risen, but the annual bonuses, related to a year gone by, are an important part of the increase. They will not be there next year.

Basic wages in some industries have been rising at uncomfortable rates: in construction, for instance, managers are enjoying increases of more than 10 per cent. This, however, is the result of skills shortages which are being recognised throughout industry. Imploring company bosses to hold wages in check, as the Government has been doing of late, will not stop them paying the going rate for the job.

It is fatuous of the generally sensible David Blunkett to declare, as he did to an unenthusiastic audience in Birmingham yesterday, that companies should invest in training their people and not paying higher wages. As any businessman could tell him, that is an admirable policy in theory, but how do you cope while the training process is going on? And once you have trained those people, how do you stop them defecting to someone offering higher rewards just down the road? If businesses are to keep trading, they will pay what they need to keep staff.

Mrs Beckett in the firing line

Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade, was in defensive mood yesterday. It seems she has taken exception to being labelled Mrs Blockit, and she was at pains to explain why she does not deserve the soubriquet. She would like it to be known that she has only put her fancily shod foot firmly in the way of four mergers out of more than 200 in her first year in office. What she does not seem to take account of is that in at least two of the four — Bass/Carlsberg and Freemans/Littlewoods — the companies involved believed they had been given the strongest indications that their deals, with, perhaps, a little tweaking, would be allowed through.

Ladbroke, too, thought that it had made sufficient concessions to ensure that its purchase of Corals was not subject to a prolonged Monopolies Commission investigation. But in reaching that view, Ladbroke was choosing to rely on previously laid ground rules: a mistake, because the old rules may not apply when a new deal comes along.

Mrs Blockit — sorry, old habits — has admitted that competition policy may be as clear as vichysoisse to those who try to manoeuvre within it. That is how one can translate her assertion that "In the past, little information was given about the basis on which certain decisions were taken. That is why we are committed to giving greater information than has been the norm."

Yet, despite her appearance on the platform in Birmingham yesterday, the President of the Board of Trade is generally loath to give information, except in the most anodyne form. Rather than submit herself to press interview, she prefers to submit the work of her underlings for publication. In her year of office, she has earned more of a reputation as a keen caravanner than a reformer of the Department of Trade.

Which may be why there are growing suggestions that she will not be long for her Presidential role. Her successor should uphold her pledge for more clarity. He might even ponder the words of Alan Greenspan, the US Federal Reserve chief, who yesterday spoke out bravely in favour of mergers. As the US Justice Department seems intent on reviving the small is beautiful theory, Greenspan suggested that mergers might be allowed through on condition that they could risk being broken apart if they demonstrated nasty tendencies of becoming predatory monopolies.

Oliver should have asked for less

The City must hope that Denise Kingsmill and her team at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission do not spot the case of Oliver Group. If they are seeking evidence that the costs of fund raising can amount to daylight robbery, they may think this is it.

The blighted bootseller's management, led by Denis Cassidy, is desperate to raise £5.5 million. A large block of shareholders thinks the company has wasted quite enough money and is fighting the move. Last month the rebels blocked a placing with institutions, so Mr Cassidy is returning with a one-for-one rights issue.

En route, Oliver's advisers — Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, Bell Lawrie White, Lovell White Durrant and KPMG — have managed to notch up £860,000 of fees. The £560,000 they are charging for the new rights issue is steep enough — being over 10 per cent of the money raised. But the £300,000 for the failed fund raising is beyond belief. There are charges for producing a document, delivering an accountants report (which at least is being re-used) and underwriting fees, for a placing that did not take place. Yes, because there was also an open offer (which also did not take place) to comply with Stock Exchange rules, there had to be a tiny clawback by small shareholders and this element had to be underwritten. So there was a fee. Techniques like that swell the City bonuses. The fault, however, surely lies with Mr Cassidy and his crew in agreeing to such terms.

Thorn in the side

IF IT was the Barclay twins who had their eyes on Thorn, the pair may be feeling a trifle aggrieved this morning. Two months after a predator was officially recognised prowling round the company, Thorn has demonstrated that it did indeed have hidden attractions. The sale price of the US business is almost two thirds of what the shares were trading at before the deal. It seems the Barclays may have spotted something but moved too slowly to net it.

Courts takes lead in home furnishing

BY FRASER NELSON

COURTS, the kitchens to carpets chain, claimed its place as Britain's fastest-growing home furnishing retailer yesterday after returning underlying sales growth of 18.6 per cent from October to March.

The company, which recently ended its advertising contract with Bruce Forsyth, said it was spending £30 million this year opening seven superstores in the UK and preparing for an economic recovery in Malaysia.

Bruce Cohen, chief executive, said that the company was winning market share from MFI, Carpetright and DFS — all of whom issued profits warnings in March.

The company, chaired by Paul Cohen, intends to open 40,000 sq ft superstores, which would be more than twice the size of Harveys, DFS or Carpetright.



Paul Cohen: store openings

Its heavy exposure to South-East Asia, which typically makes more profits than the UK, cost £4.4 million in the year to March 31 — all of which the company blamed on currency fluctuations.

Bruce Cohen said Courts was using the economic downturn as an opportunity to pick up new stores on the cheap. He said: "We have opened six more stores in Malaysia at wonderful rent rates which will last for the next 15 years. The economic recovery will take another year yet, but we are very optimistic."

Its Caribbean stores, which are more biased towards electrical goods, turned in a 30 per cent profits increase to £22 million. This division is now the strongest performer in the company, making almost twice the profit levels generated in the UK. Its fledgeling Ireland division was the poorest performer, making an operating loss of £1.35 million against a £799,000 loss.

Overall, group pre-tax profits rose to £32.3 million (£29.5 million) and earnings to 26.8p (26.3p) — beating City expectations. A final dividend of 3.45p, due on October 9, makes a total of 4.5p (3.75p).

Tempus, page 32

Rebels to fight latest placing by Oliver

BY JASON NISSE

SHAREHOLDERS who blocked the controversial £5.5 million share placing by Oliver Group last month, have vowed to vote against the shoe retailer's second attempt to raise the funds, via a one-for-one rights issue announced yesterday (see Commentary, this page).

Denis Cassidy, chairman of Oliver, said the funds were needed for expansion. However the rebels, who speak for 30 per cent of the group's shares and include the Oliver family, are unhappy that the retailer has lost nearly £10 million in the past two years.

They also object to the level of fees being paid to Oliver's advisers. The cost of the rights issue is £560,000 and another £300,000 was spent on the failed placing.

Mr Cassidy, who resigned as chairman of Liberty, the department store company, under shareholder pressure, has staked his reputation on the rights issue being approved. The proposal will be accepted with a simple majority. A spokesman for Mr Cassidy refused to say whether he would resign if the vote did not go through.

The rebel shareholders, led by Ken Bartle, the former head of Stead & Simpson, are expcted to put alternative proposals to the company soon.

NHP sets sights on expansion into Spain

BY DOMINIC WALSH

NURSING Home Properties, which specialises in the purchase and leaseback of purpose-built care homes, is in talks to set up a joint venture in Spain.

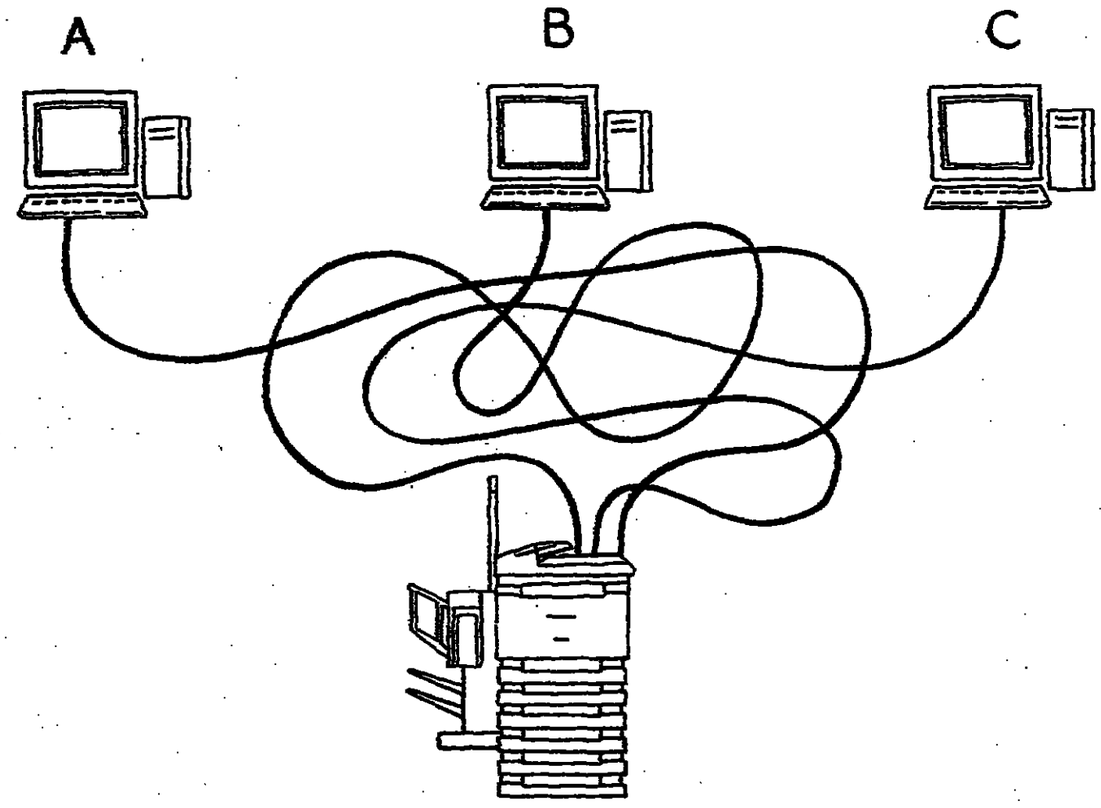
The company, which next month hopes to be promoted from AIM to a full stock market listing, said yesterday it had formed a new company, NHP Europa SA, and was in discussions with Spanish banks about the project.

Richard Ellert, chief executive, said the group was also eyeing the German and French markets. But he emphasised that the focus would remain the UK, where NHP has recently sealed three deals for more than £100 million, taking its number of homes to 170 with 9,200 beds.

It has another £100 million of deals in the pipeline and expects to raise new funds through a share issue or securitisation, probably by the end of September.

Mr Ellert also unveiled a 78 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £2.8 million in the half-year to March 31, from turnover more than doubled to £9.54 million. Earnings per share reached 4.09p (3.22p) and a second-quarter dividend of 2p makes a total of 3.85p (3p) for the half-year.

Tempus, page 32



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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK



Stock Market Writer of the Year

Yen support brings relief to London and New York

SUPPORT for the yen brought sighs of relief from investors on both sides of the Atlantic.

The intervention by the US and Japanese Governments for the ailing currency was seen positively in the wake of sharp falls during the past couple of weeks on Asian financial markets. Dealers hope it will bring an element of stability to what had become an increasingly desperate situation.

Both London and New York reacted quickly to the move with share prices in London closing just below their best levels of the day. But it had not all been plain sailing for the equity market. The surge in average earnings raised the spectre of yet another rise in interest rates, coming on the heels of Tuesday's sharp rise in inflation. Share prices wobbled but quickly regained their composure with the help of a 200 point-plus surge by the Dow Jones industrial average.

The FTSE 100 index finished just below its best of the day with a rise of 103.0 at 5,832.7 as total turnover reached 943 million shares. By contrast, the FTSE 250 index fell 19.6 to 5,683.9 weighed down by a fresh sell-off in manufacturing stocks.

The effort to support the yen and a rally in Hong Kong brought some much needed support to companies with interests in the region. **Standard Chartered** firmed 20p to 674p while **HSBC** grew 104p to £15.40, despite Dresdner Kleinwort Benson cutting its profits forecast from £5.02 billion to £4.8 billion.

BTR retreated 3p to 174p ahead of a briefing with brokers. They will be worried about the group's exposure to the Asian markets.

The pound's continued strength meant more misery for manufacturers. **Lucas-Varity** lost some of this week's gloss to close 3p down at 252p, while **Morgan Crucible** shed 14½p at 406p, **BBA Group**, 19½p at 433½p, and **Glynwed International** 4p at 257p.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell has turned bearish of prospects for **British Energy**, down 42p at 558p, and downgraded its recommendation from "neutral" to "underweight". It has been telling clients that electricity pool pricing could be bad news for the group and further damage its rating.

Poor weather and the downturn in consumer spending is taking its toll on **Next**, down 2½p at 521p. That is the message going out to brokers as the retailer prepares to lose its prized place as a constituent of the top 100 companies.



Poor weather and the slump in consumer spending has not helped Next, which saw its price fall 2½p to 521p

Billiton was one of the best performers of the top 100, firming 10¾p to 137¼p after announcing plans to buy back up to 10 per cent of its shares.

The bears continued to hold sway in **Premier Farnell** with the price dropping 15p to 298½p, stretching the loss of the past two days to 66½p. It comes after Tuesday's warning, the third since the ill-fated merger between Premier Industries and Farnell Electronics in 1996. The shares have slumped from 749p in the past 12 months.

A profits warning from **ISA International** left it nursing a loss of 21½p at 41p making it the worst performing stock among the FTSE 350. The consumer products distributor expects profits for the year to be materially below forecasts after a poor trading performance in May.

Enterprise Oil continued to make headway, adding 7½p to 543½p after successfully appraising the extension of the Monte Enoc field into the nearby Volturino concession. The tests were carried out along with its Italian state-owned partner ENI.

Save Group continued to nudge towards its high for the year of 117p with a rise of ½p to 111½p supported by a "buy" recommendation from Williams de Broe, the broker. In its review of garage forecourt retailers, the broker says the group should benefit from consolidation within the industry. The broker is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits from £9 million to £13 million.

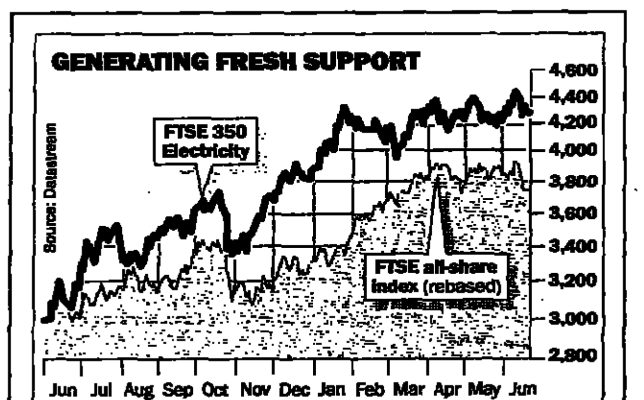
Huntingdon Life, the contract research company, appears to have few friends in the City with the shares slumping to yet another low yesterday. The price ended the session 1p lower at 17½p with the company claiming it had nothing to add to the first quarter results published last month.

The City seems to think differently with a total of 3.25 million shares changing hands where the normal trade is 5,000 at a time. Huntingdon has now tumbled from a peak of 121p last year.

□ **GILT EDGED:** The rise in average earnings last month spooked the market and fuelled fears that another rise in interest rates may be on the agenda. It comes a day after a sharp rise in the inflation rate helped erode much of last week's strong gains.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt ended £0.92 down at £108.71 as a total of 159,000 contracts were completed. The short-dated future was also £0.76 down at £102.55 on turnover of 330 contracts. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2021 tumbled £1 15/16 to £130 7/16 while at the short end Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £21/32 off at £101 15/32.

□ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street showed its approval for a revived yen by sending blue chips soaring in early trading. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 190.32 at 8,855.61.



TRADING conditions for the power generators remain difficult, but not impossible. Robert Fleming Securities, the broker, is confident that difficulties will be lessened by government intervention to support the ailing coal industry.

Meanwhile, companies such as PowerGen, down 16p at 783p, and National Power, 6½p off at 560p, are pressing ahead with international projects designed to produce a seperate stream of earnings growth.

Adam Forsyth, who follows the power companies for Flemings, says National Power is ahead of the game and estimates that its overseas interests could be worth as much as 450p a share. PowerGen is trailing but the strength of its balance sheet provides it with the potential for future growth.

City sentiment has been against the generators but they still boast significant value. Flemings recommends buying National Power for the "sheer scale" of its overseas business despite a mature core business. Powergen should also be bought for its underlying financial strength.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 8855.61 (+190.32)
S&P Composite .... 1108.29 (+20.70)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .... 14715.38 (-5.00)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng .... 8004.35 (+477.90)

Amsterdam:
AEX Index .... 1174.87 (+12.66)

Sydney:
AO .... 2549.3 (+24.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX .... 5709.36 (+117.79)

Singapore:
Straits .... 1107.70 (+58.74)

Brussels:
General .... n/a

Paris:
CAC-40 .... 4092.92 (+79.64)

Zurich:
SKA Gen .... 1608.00 (+34.50)

London:

FT 30	3837.6 (+55.0)
FTSE 100	5832.7 (+103.0)
FTSE 250	5683.9 (-19.6)
FTSE 350	2829.1 (+38.7)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2827.33 (+61.21)
FTSE All-Share	2765.85 (+35.66)
FTSE Non Financials	2822.10 (+31.95)
FTSE Fixed Interest	145.09 (-1.02)
FTSE Govt Secs	104.90 (-1.05)
Bargains	67678
SEAQ Volume	942.8m
US$	1.6587 (+0.0059)
German Mark	2.9702 (-0.0017)
Exchange Index	105.8 (-0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.4998
£:SDR	1.2425
RPI	163.5 May (4.2%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	161.3 May (3.2%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

ATA Group	145	- 1
BTR Red Prf B	36½	...
Captain OM Watts (4)	6	...
City Gourmets	78½	...
Computacenter	744	+ 1½
Do Warrants	2	+ ½
Dresdner RCM End	99½	...
Elderstreet Dwng VCT	95	...
GRE Red Prf B	17	- 1
Game	219	...
Goldshield	231	+ 11
Hamleys B	22	...
INVESCO Cntl Sml Cs	99½	+ 2½
ITNET (350)	435	+ 17½
JSB Software Techs	226½	...
JWE Telecom	141½	+ 1½
James R Knowles	96½	...
Multi Equip Rental	12½	...
Pennine Dwng VCT	100	...
Quantica	150	- 1½
Taiwan IT GDR	130½	+ ½
Taylor & Francis	233½	...
Thomson Travel	173½	- 1½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Hrdy Oil Gs n/p (225)	8	- 3½
Old Eng Pbs n/p (330)	19½	+ 4½

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Powerscreen	112½p (+13p)
HSBC	1540p (+104p)
RJB	151p (+8p)
Friendly Htles	153p (+8p)
Cadbury-Schw	944p (+49p)
Reed Executive	179p (+9p)
Marks Spencer	500p (+27p)
Thorn	220p (+10½p)
Rio Tinto	714p (+34p)
Servisair	239p (+10p)
GRE	377p (+14½p)
BTG	780p (+29p)

FALLS:

REXAM	263p (-14½p)
Electrocmpnts	512p (-28p)
Rank Gp	342p (-11p)
Ladbroke	335p (-10½p)
Cox Insce	506p (-15½p)
Ranger	391p (-11¾p)

Closing Prices Page 36

TEMPUS

Showing its metal

BILLITON'S shares deserve to be rated higher than they are, but it was rather odd that the catalyst for their rally yesterday was news of a buyback that might not go ahead until next April, assuming that it is authorised by shareholders. Investors have been known to perk up on the promise of jam tomorrow, but jam next year?

The announcement may have been made with South America in mind. News from Venezuela is expected next week on the privatisation of its aluminium business. Billiton is among the bidders, and should it win, analysts may well question if the short-term value of the deal, given Billiton's existing strength in aluminium. Other metals might be seen as higher priorities.

Coming on top of the trauma in world metals markets that has been caused by the Asian financial crisis, a Venezuelan announcement could really tear into Billiton's share price. The buyback announcement gives the stock a bit of upward momentum that could well be needed as a buttress.

Billiton also said yesterday that attributable earnings are likely to be no less than $455 million (£276 million) for the year ending June 30, 1998. This is not really a suprise, a figure that sits somewhere in the middle of analysts' estimates.

Merrill Lynch says that shares are trading on a p/e of about ten at the moment and believes they should be worth at least 162p each, especially as the company is sitting on 50p cash a share.

It still needs to use some of this cash on acquisitions soon, but the shares continue to look cheap on fundamentals.

Courts

AT first glance, Courts seems to be walking on water. Furniture retailers have been awash with profits warnings in recent months, and their shares have suffered accordingly — but little Courts has held at around 390p.

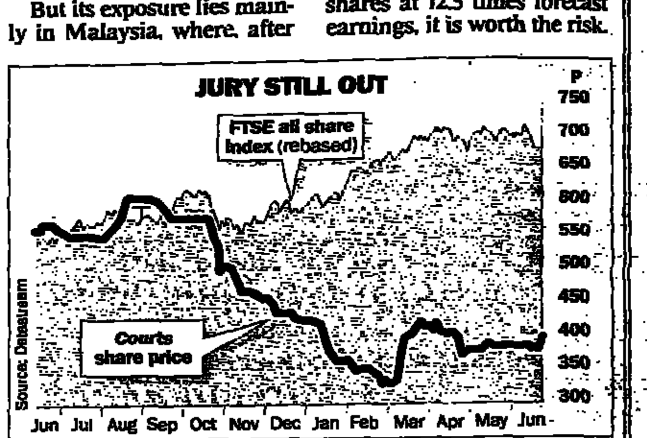
Now, we learn like-for-like sales in the UK grew by 18.6 per cent in the second-half — phenomenal by any standards. So why is Courts doing so well?

The company has billed itself as one of a kind — because it sells everything from kitchens to carpets. Its stores are twice as big as most rivals, and offer the one-stop shop format widely found overseas. The British, it says, are now coming round to its way of thinking — and shunning the "niche" retailers like MFI and Carpetright. A convenient rationalisation, perhaps, but one that presently fits the facts.

Still, the UK generates less than a quarter of group profits: 30 per cent comes from South-East Asia. This was largely responsible for the downturn in the shares last autumn.

But its exposure lies mainly in Malaysia, where, after 12 months of turmoil, its profits have fallen by 22 per cent. This is bad, but not disastrous — and more than made up for by roaring trade in the Caribbean.

All told, Courts could well be the first UK retailer to emerge from the current sector downturn. With the shares at 12.5 times forecast earnings, it is worth the risk.



Rebus

IN THE IT sector, where shares often trade at 60 times future earnings, Rebus's stock looks conspicuously cheap. At 118p, they trade at just 15½ times their forecast earnings for next year.

The shares fell yesterday despite a 44 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits. But Rebus is not quite the undiscovered high-tech wonder stock it might appear.

Under chief executive Peter Presland, Rebus has not produced the kind of rocket-fuelled growth that some IT analysts now consider normal in the sector. Some divisions, such as human resources, are struggling to get into double-figure growth. Better growth has come from the insurance division, and in particular the EPG business, bought a couple of years ago for about £12 million. The headline figures may look impressive, but is the company simply a one-division wonder?

This seems to be what is worrying the City, along with concern that in other areas the company is promising and not delivering. But given yesterday's figures, such an argument seems a little unfair. The shares may not deserve the ratings of some of its more successful counterparts, but they still look cheap.

Nursing Home Properties

GIVEN that Nursing Home Properties has tapped shareholders for funds three times since it joined AIM three years ago, yesterday's news that it is likely to do so again should come as no surprise.

As it gears up for promotion to the main market, the extra cash — and a probable securitisation — will help to fund some £100 million of acquisitions already under contract and considerable future growth thereafter.

NHP, credited with being the pioneer in the care home sale and leaseback (S&L) market, has grown quickly to 170 units with more than 9,200 beds and claims there is much more to come. It says only a quarter of the UK's 100,000 new-build beds have been through the S&L process and that, as older family-run care homes close down, new beds will continue to come on stream at the rate of 10,000-15,000 a year.

Its track record, allied to the presence on its share register of Meditrust, the powerful US real estate investment trust, and the imminent arrival of Lend Lease, the Australian giant, would appear to support the share price's 10 per cent premium to net asset value. But there is still scepticism over rent levels as occupancy and fee levels come under pressure, which must cast some doubts over NHP's ability to sustain yields. There is still some way to go before the investment community embraces the care home property market as warmly as NHP would like.

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Jul	1065-1064	Sep	1176-1172
Sep	1092-1091	Dec	1197-1192
Dec	1116-1115	Mar	1217-1216
Mar	1137-1135	unq	—
May	1150-1148		
Jul	1165-1161	Volume:	5438

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Jul	1695 SLR	Mar	1630 BID
Sep	1680 BID	May	unq
Nov	1670 SLR	Jul	—
Jan	1660 BID	Volume:	5309

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	244.8-43.7
Spot: unq		May	248.3-46.2
Aug	250.8-50.5	Aug	250.8-48.2
Oct	243.0-42.7	Oct	251.7-48.7
Dec	241.0-39.7	Volume:	2298

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on June 16

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	66.19	110.94	89.02
(+/-)	-0.56	-21.76	+1.34
Eng/Wales:	66.20	111.02	86.36
(+/-)	-0.48	-21.91	+0.44
(%)	+14.0	+3.0	+4.0
Scotland:	66.09	110.10	96.90
(+/-)	-1.44	-19.17	+3.43
(%)	+4.0	+36.0	+7.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	11.40	+0.35
Brent 15 day (Aug)	13.40	+0.55
Brent 15 day (Sep)	13.90	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Aug)	13.95	+0.75
W Texas Intermediate (Sep)	14.65	+0.50

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	150 (n/c)	154 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	112 (n/c)	114 (n/c)
3.5 Fuel Oil	62 (n/c)	64 (n/c)
Naphtha	119 (-2)	121 (-2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Jul	115.75-16.00	Oct	128.75-29.00
Aug	120.25-20.50	Nov	132.50-33.00
Sep	124.25-24.75	Vol:	18399

BRENT (6.00pm)

Aug	13.37-13.39	Nov	14.66 BID
Sep	13.90 SLR	Dec	14.85-15.00
Oct	14.28-14.30	Vol:	48529

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Jul	75.00	Sep	71.65
Sep	73.50	Nov	73.65
Nov	75.50	Jan	75.65
Jan	77.50	Mar	77.65
Mar	79.50	May	79.25
Volume:	376	Volume:	65

LIFFE POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	81.0
Mar		120.0
Apr	159.0	156.5
	Volume:	43

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)
Jul 45.50-46.00

LIFFE BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Jun 98	905	905	905
Jul 98	845	830	845
Aug 98	845	835	845
Oct 98	950	940	940
Vol: 56 lots		Open Interest:	1192

Index 911 +3

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1652.5-1653.5	1663.0-1665.0	2106925
Lead ($/tonne)	525.50-526.50	541.00-542.00	369900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1015.5-1016.0	1040.0-1040.5	749075
Tin ($/tonne)	6100.0-6105.0	5990.0-5995.0	33725
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1310.0-1311.0	1341.0-1342.0	1943550
Nickel ($/tonne)	4440.0-4445.0	4485.0-4490.0	102882

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jul	Oct	Jan	Puts Jul	Oct	Jan
ASDA	180	17½	26½	32½	2½	8½	13
(*193½)	200	7½	16½	23	11	18	23
Abbey Nat	1000	60½	106½	140½	19½	58½	76½
(*1034½)	1050	32	81½	116	41½	87½	101
All&Leic	750	62	99	119½	11	40	50
(*797½)	800	31	72	95	31	62	74
Alld Dom	550	42½	68½	77	4½	19½	28½
(*586)	600	13½	40½	50	23½	41½	52
BAA	650	28½	56	72½	15½	32	42
(*661)	700	8½	33	49	45½	59	68½
BAT Ind	550	35	56	78½	13½	33	44½
(*570½)	600	11½	36	53	38	61½	71
Barclays	1700	67½	146	200	43	106	132
(*1715)	1800	25½	101	152	102	161	185
Bass	1100	57	101	123½	28	52	72
(*1123)	1150	32½	75	97	53½	76½	95½
Boots	1000	37½	82	103½	33	59	70
(*1000)	1050	19	60½	79½	61	84	95½
Br Airways	650	40½	71½	92½	15½	33½	46½
(*675)	700	16	47½	70	40½	58½	71
BP	850	46½	83	109	18	45½	58½
(*873½)	900	23	57½	84	42½	70½	81½
Br Steel	140	5½	11½	15½	8	13	16
(*141½)	160	1	5	9	25½	27	28½
C&W	650	46	76½	96	18	38½	49½
(*676½)	700	21½	52½	71½	43	63	74½
CU	1050	77½	128½	151	25	69½	74½
(*1097)	1100	49	104	126½	47	94	99
GlaxoW	1700	121½	185½	252½	32	94½	122
(*1775)	1800	65½	145½	203	75	143½	171
HSBC	1500	90½	171½	226	45	120½	153
(*1534½)	1600	52	125	179	98½	173½	203½
Halifax	800	33½	63½	82	25½	52	62
(*805½)	850	14½	41	58	55½	72½	89
ICI	1000	70½	110	138	14	47½	60½
(*1049½)	1050	38½	85½	110½	32½	68½	84½
Land Sec	900	46½	88	106	8½	33	45½
(*931½)	950	18	61½	79	32	56	67½
M&S	550	20½	44½	62½	18	29	38
(*553½)	600	6	24½	40½	49	58½	63
Natl Pwr	550	27	57½	72	18½	33½	44
(*558½)	600	8	36	50	47	59½	71
Nat West	1050	63½	110½	145½	19	62	80½
(*1088½)	1100	35	86½	120½	41	86½	105½
Reed Intl	500	51	72½	84½	5½	21	24½
(*544)	550	18½	44½	57½	23½	43	45½
Reuters	703	33	64½	—	25½	51½	—
(*706)	761	11½	40	—	62	85	—
Ryl&Sun	600	57	85	101½	7½	31	41½
(*643½)	650	27½	59	79½	28½	54	68
Safeway	360	21½	41	50	9	22	27½
(*372)	390	9	27	35½	25	35	43
Sainsbury	500	26	47½	61½	11	29½	35½
(*510½)	550	8½	27½	39	42	55	62½
Shell	420	15	31½	42	12½	24½	29½
(*421)	460	3½	15	25	40½	48	52½
SmKl Bch	700	53	90	115½	20	44½	58
(*733½)	750	27	65½	92	43	69	84
Std Char	650	46½	85	110½	30½	58	72½
(*665½)	700	25	61½	87½	58	84½	93
Thames W	1000	64½	93½	117½	19½	39½	51½
(*1050)	1050	34½	67½	91	44½	63½	74
Vodafone	700	33½	74	92	28½	54½	68½
(*702)	750	14½	52	71	58	82½	95½
Woolwich	294	31½	44	—	3½	13½	—
(*320½)	324	12½	28½	—	14½	27	—
Zeneca	2500	131½	243½	319½	57	137	180
(*2562)	2600	78	192½	268½	104	185	228
(*695)	700	42½	64	82½	32½	53½	62½
Redland	330	15½	—	—	½	—	—
(*345)	360	½	—	—	15½	—	—
R-Royce	260	19	27	33½	14½	21	25½
(*260)	280	11	19	25	26	32½	36
Tesco	550	45	61½	78	19½	31	39
(*567½)	600	21½	40	54	46½	57½	64½
Utd Bisc	240	20	25½	31½	6	11½	15
(*250)	260	10	16	21½	15	22	25

	Series	Calls Aug	Nov	Feb	Puts Aug	Nov	Feb
BTR	152	28½	33	—	2½	7½	—
(*174½)	177	13½	19½	—	12	17½	—
Blue Circ	360	35½	48½	55	14	24	28
(*379)	390	19½	34	40	28	39	42½
Br Aero	475	33	55	—	25	37	—
(*473)	500	22	43	53½	38½	50	57
Br Telcm	700	36½	57	72	36	49	59½
(*701)	750	17½	36½	51½	68½	78	89
Cadbury	900	78	104	130½	24	40½	51½
(*941)	950	51½	78½	105	45½	64	75
Carlton Cms	500	57½	76½	93	11	23½	25½
(*546½)	550	29	52½	66½	31	44	49
Diageo	720	54	—	—	34½	—	—
(*738½)	767	28	—	—	69	—	—
Energy Gp	800	40	41	—	—	1	—
(*840)	850	½	2½	—	15½	15	—
Gallaher	300	30½	37	45½	8½	14	23
(*320½)	330	14	21	30½	20	29½	38½
GEC	460	50	63	75½	14½	26	33½
(*493½)	500	27½	43	55½	32½	45½	53
Hanson	360	28	38½	49½	10	18½	22½
(*376)	390	12½	22½	33½	24½	32½	36½
Imp Tob	420	33	45½	52½	10	17	26½
(*437½)	460	13½	25½	33	29½	37	47
Kingfshr	1000	67	101	130½	37½	61½	71½
(*1017½)	1050	43	75½	105½	63½	86	95½
Lasmo	240	16½	26	34	10½	15	18
(*243½)	260	10	17	34½	21	29½	28½
Ladbroke	330	26½	37½	46	16½	27	31½
(*335½)	360	14	24½	32½	33	43½	48
LucasVar	240	22	30½	36½	8	14	18
(*250)	260	13	20½	28½	17½	22½	29
P&O	850	42½	64½	87	29	49	58½
(*854)	900	21	42½	64	58	77	86
Pearson	750	63½	88½	112	35	53½	66½
(*768)	800	40	64½	88	61½	78½	92
Rio Tinto	650	71½	90	107	14½	31	39

	Series	Calls Jun	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Sep	Dec
BG	306	21½	—	—	—	—	—
(*327½)	330	—	20½	31	2½	19	26
BSkyB	420	11	37½	51	—	23½	33
(*431)	460	—	30	34	29	45½	54
Br Bio	40	½	9	12	—	6½	9
(*40½)	45	—	7	10½	4½	9	11½
Centrica	100	—	7½	12	—	6	7½
(*100)	110	—	3½	8	10	12½	13
Dixons	500	30½	50	63½	—	30	27½
(*530½)	550	—	25½	39	19½	45½	52
EMI	500	28	57	73½	—	26½	38
(*528)	550	—	33	50	22	53½	64
Granada	1100	13	72	106	—	47½	65½
(*1113)	1150	—	48½	80	37	74	90½
GUS	850	23½	71	90½	—	33	51
(*873½)	900	—	45½	65	26½	57½	76
Lloyds TSB	850	14½	74	104½	—	51	68
(*864½)	900	—	51	79½	35½	77½	93½
Lonrho	288	9	25½	—	—	17½	—
(*297)	321	—	13	—	24	37	—
Norwich	420	18	44	58½	—	19	27½
(*438)	460	—	24½	39½	22	40	48
Orange	460	27	57	74½	—	23	34
(*487)	500	—	36½	55	13	42	54½
Railtrck	1250	36½	115	159½	—	66½	107½
(*1286½)	1300	—	88	132½	13½	90½	132
Scot Pwr	500	37	65	81½	—	19	27
(*537)	550	—	40	55	13	41½	50½
Tarmac	110	5½	11	13	—	4	8
(*115½)	120	—	5½	8	4½	9	11½
Tomkins	330	8	22	30½	—	16	20
(*338)	360	—	9	18	22	34	37½
Unilever	650	43	76	92½	—	21½	30½
(*693)	700	—	47½	64½	7	42½	52

June 17 Total: 49659 Calls: 29756 Puts: 19903

FTSE INDEX (*5831½)

Strike	Calls Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Dec	Puts Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Dec
5700	140½	258	330	408	579	3	85	149½	210	274½
5750	95½	219	300	377½	—	8	96	168	229½	—
5800	56½	188	270	347	516	18½	120	188	249	311½
5850	27	157	240	317	—	38½	140½	206½	268½	—
5900	10½	127½	209½	278½	450½	72½	163	226½	286	351
5950	2½	105½	184	250½	—	119	191½	252	308	—
6000	1	84	161½	228	383½	169	221½	280½	334½	397½

June 17 Total: 4165 Calls: 1537 Puts: 2628 *Underlying security price

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Long Gilt	Jun 98	109.02	109.02	108.35	108.39	720
Previous open interest 133892	Sep 98	109.51	109.53	108.30	108.71	161424
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Sep 98	108.26	108.29	107.78	107.98	39800
Previous open interest 74339	Dec 98				107.43	0
Five Year Gilt	Jun 98				101.23	0
Previous open interest 9378	Sep 98	102.45	102.60	102.45	102.55	305
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Sep 98	120.40	120.46	119.97	120.13	30744
Previous open interest 101010	Dec 98				106.40	0
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Sep 98	133.45	133.49	132.91	132.95	5157
	Dec 98	133.19	133.19	132.79	132.79	133
Three Mth Sterling	Jun 98	92.250	92.250	92.230	92.240	15449
	Sep 98	92.180	92.210	92.060	92.130	111120
Previous open interest 996623	Dec 98	92.230	92.270	92.060	92.150	168707
Three Mth Euromark	Sep 98	96.275	96.275	96.250	96.265	57977
Previous open interest 2194931	Dec 98	96.025	96.035	95.995	96.015	62999
Three Mth Eurolira	Sep 98	95.530	95.600	95.530	95.580	37357
Previous open interest 677737	Dec 98	95.960	95.980	95.940	95.960	7852
Three Mth Euroswiss	Sep 98	98.110	98.140	98.020	98.060	20854
Previous open interest 159897	Dec 98	97.930	97.940	97.840	97.870	5284
Three Mth Euro	Sep 98	95.765	95.770	95.750	95.765	659
Previous open interest 32468	Dec 98	95.995	95.995	95.960	95.985	419
FTSE 100	Jun 98	5780.0	5848.0	5753.0	5838.0	46934
Previous open interest 194373	Sep 98	5852.0	5925.0	5828.0	5914.5	33173

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7½ Finance Hse 8
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7¼ Low 6 Week fixed: 7¼
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 7⅛; 3 mth 7⅛. Sell: 2 mth 7¼; 3 mth: 7¼.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	
Sterling Money Rates:	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅝	7¾-7⅝	7⅞-7¾
Interbank:	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅝	7¾-7⅝	7⅞-7¾

Overnight: open 7¼, close 6.

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	7½	n/a	7½	7¾	7¾
Sterling CDs:	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅝	7¾-7⅝	7⅞-7¾
Dollar CDs:	5.56	n/a	5.58	5.65	5.67
Building Society CDs:	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅜	7½-7⅝	7¾-7⅝	7⅞-7¾

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5⅝-5½	5¾-5⅝	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3½-3⅜	3⅝-3½	4-3
French Franc:	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3⅝-3½	3¾-3⅝	3½-2½
Swiss Franc:	1¼-1⅛	1⅛-1	1⅛-1	1¼-1⅛	2½-1½
Yen:	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	½-¼	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $288.20-288.60 Close: $291.30-291.80 High: $291.80-292.30
Low: $287.90-288.40 AM: $288.0 PM: $290.90
Krugerrand: $292.00-294.00 (£176.00-178.00)
Platinum: $358.00 (£215.75) Silver: $5.325 (£3.205) Palladium: $284.00 (£171.25)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for June 17	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.3428-3.3520	3.3466-3.3492	1½-1¼pr	3¾-3½pr
Brussels	61.150-61.380	61.239-61.281	23-18pr	66-59pr
Copenhagen	11.293-11.330	11.308-11.316	⅝-⅜pr	1½-1pr
Dublin	1.1755-1.1825	1.1760-1.1807	16-9pr	47-38pr
Frankfurt	2.9666-2.9738	2.9684-2.9710	1¼-1pr	3½-3¼pr
Lisbon	303.57-304.49	303.92-304.21	½-¼pr	2½-2pr
Madrid	251.59-252.35	251.70-252.06	72-61pr	217-199pr
Milan	2919.9-2922.8	2919.9-2922.8	64-48pr	201-178pr
Montreal	2.4231-2.4355	2.4293-2.4314	0.57-0.52pr	1.13-1.04pr
New York	1.6546-1.6594	1.6587-1.6594	0.275-0.255pr	0.845-0.815pr
Oslo	12.560-12.617	12.580-12.592	½-¼pr	¾-¼pr
Paris	9.9400-9.9740	9.9547-9.9605	3½-3¼pr	10½-10pr
Stockholm	13.175-13.253	13.198-13.215	½-⅛pr	1¼-1pr
Tokyo	228.89-235.90	229.11-229.37	1½-1¼pr	4½-4¼pr
Vienna	20.862-20.927	20.885-20.904	½-¼pr	2½-2pr
Zurich	2.4706-2.4773	2.4740-2.4765	1½-1¼pr	3½-3¼pr

Source: Extel Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.6353-1.6380
Austria	12.59-12.60
Belgium (Com)	36.92-36.96
Canada	1.4653-1.4658
Denmark	6.8200-6.8220
France	5.9998-6.0073
Germany	1.7890-1.7900
Hong Kong	7.7401-7.7411
Ireland	1.4055-1.4105
Italy	1763.10-1764.60
Japan	138.32-138.37
Malaysia	3.9700-3.9800
Netherlands	2.0169-2.0179
Norway	7.5790-7.5850
Portugal	183.18-183.28
Singapore	1.6820-1.6870
Spain	151.92-151.97
Sweden	7.9498-7.9597
Switzerland	1.4911-1.4916

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6587-1.6612
Australia dollar	2.7149-2.7210
Bahrain dinar	0.6165-0.6325
Brazil real*	1.9134-1.9161
China yuan	13.584-13.886
Cyprus pound	0.8650-0.8840
Finland markka	8.9775-9.1185
Greece drachma	500.25-511.15
Hong Kong dollar	12.8331-12.8425
India rupee	69.17-70.87
Indonesia rupiah	n/a
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5020-0.5150
Malaysia ringgit	6.5511-6.6352
New Zealand dollar	3.1892-3.1973
Pakistan rupee	71.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.9650-6.0990
Singapore dollar	2.7896-2.7987
S Africa rand (com)	8.7340-8.9210
U A E dirham	6.0200-6.1550

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

3i	2,140	Legal & Gn	3,067
ASDA Gp	7,274	Lloyds TSB	10,860
Abbey Ntl	8,471	LucasVarity	7,669
Allied Dom	1,315	Marks Spr	11,084
Allnce & Leic	1,611	Nat Grid	5,484
Amvescap	1,640	Nat Power	4,836
AB Foods	682	NatWst Bk	2,190
Bk of Scot	2,162	Next	5,115
BAA	1,973	Norwich Un	3,749
Barclays	9,108	Nycmd Amr	1,345
Bass	2,063	Orange	3,075
BAT Inds	7,384	P & O	624
BG	6,840	Pearson	1,613
Billiton	14,076	PowerGen	1,215
Blue Circle	2,219	Prudential	2,990
BOC	3,632	Railtrack	806
Boots	2,098	Rank Group	952
BAe	7,791	Reckitt Col	473
BA	2,747	Reed Intl	4,359
Brit Energy	8,458	Rentokil	7,149
Br Land	3,194	Reuters	4,535
BP	8,696	Rio Tinto	4,389
Brit Steel	6,647	RMC	375
BSkyB	3,730	Rolls Royce	2,495
BT	21,212	Royal & Sun	7,249
BTR	11,794	Royal Bk Sct	4,218
CGU	1,901	Safeway	1,548
Cable Wire	8,927	Sainsbury	4,619
Cadbury	1,891	Schroders	261
Carlton Cms	1,397	Scot & New	444
Centrica	9,409	Scot Power	3,601
Compass Gp	2,280	Svrn Trent	622
Diageo	5,166	Shell Trans	21,877
EMI	3,508	Siebe	2,222
Energy Gp	64	Smiths Ind	564
Enterpr Oil	3,057	SmKl Bch	12,510
Gen Elec	10,078	Std Chartd	13,097
GKN	3,016	Sun Life	559
Glaxo Well	6,745	Tesco	9,351
Granada	3,574	Thames W	1,060
GUS	3,509	Tomkins	2,799
GRE	1,072	Unilever	4,085
Hays	1,966	Utd News	1,023
ICI	1,369	Utd Utilities	999
Kingfisher	2,929	Vodafone	13,991
HSBC	10,663	Whitbread	930
Halifax	11,470	Williams	2,645
Ladbroke	4,803	Wolseley	1,010
Land Secs	1,808	Woolwich	1,996
LASMO	6,251	Zeneca	1,969

WALL STREET

	Jun 17 midday	Jun 16 close
AMP Inc	38¼	37⅞
AMR Corp	80½	80¼
AT & T	62⅞	61⅞
Abbott Labs	39⅞	39
Advanced Micro	18¼	17⅞
Aetna Life	73½	73½
Ahmanson (HF)	69⅞	68½
Air Prod & Chem	44⅛	43¼
AirTouch Comm	51¼	49½
Albertson's	52½	51⅞
Alcan Aluminm	27¼	26⅞
Allied Signal	41¼	40½
Alum Co of Am	64¼	63¼
Amerada Hess	52¼	51
AEP	46⅞	47¼
Amer Express	104¼	101½
Amer Genl Corp	68¼	65⅞
Amer Home Pr	52	51⅛
Amer Intl	132¼	130⅞
Amer Online	93⅞	89¼
Amer Stores	24¼	24⅞
Amer Standard	43⅞	43¼
Ameritech	44⅞	43½
Amgen	62½	62½
Amoco	43⅞	41¼
Andrew Corp	19¼	19⅞
Anheuser-Busch	47⅞	47¼
Apple Computer	28¼	28
Archer Daniels	20⅞	19¼
Armco	6	5½
Armstrng Wrld	79⅞	79⅞
Asarco	22¼	22½
Atl Richfield	80⅞	78¼
Atmel Corp	13½	13¼
Auto Data Pro	69¼	67¼
Avery Dennison	50⅞	50⅞
Avon Products	78	76½
Baker Hughes	35⅞	34⅞
Baltim Gas & El	31¾	31⅛
Banc One	57¼	56⅞
BankAmerica	85⅞	83
Bank of NY	60¼	58⅞
Bankers Tr Crp	114⅞	110
Bausch & Lomb	49¼	48⅞
Baxter Intl	53⅞	52¼
Bectn Dicknsn	76⅞	73⅞
Bell Atlantic	96¼	94⅞
BellSouth	67¼	66⅞
Best Foods	58¼	57⅞
Black & Decker	56	55½
Block (H&R)	43¾	43¾
Boeing	44¼	43⅞
Boise Cascade	34⅞	33½
Boston Scien	63¾	62¼
Bristol Myrs Sq	114¼	113¼
Browning Ferris	35	34¼
Brunswick	25¼	25
Burlington Nthn	100⅞	98⅞
CMS Energy Corp	44⅞	44¼
CSX	47⅞	47⅞
CBS Corp	31½	30⅞
Campbell Soup	54½	54⅞
Carolina Pwr	43¾	43¼
Case Corp	52½	51¼
Caterpillar	54⅞	52¾
Central & SW	27⅞	27¼
Champion Intl	47¼	46¼
Chase Manhat	69⅞	67⅞
Chevron Corp	83¾	81¼
Chrysler	55⅛	53⅞
Chubb Corp	76½	73⅞
Cigna Corp	68⅞	67¼
Citicorp	151⅞	146¼
Clorox	89¾	88⅞
Coastal Corp	69¼	67¼
Coca Cola	80¾	79
Coca Cola Ent	40¾	39¼
Colgate-Palm	87⅞	86¼
Columbia Energy	57¼	56⅞
ColumbiaHCA	29⅞	29
Compaq Comp	29	28⅞
Comp Ass Intl	58¾	56⅞
Conagra	32	31¾
Cons Edison	45⅞	46
Cons Nat Gas	58⅞	56⅞
Cooper Inds	63¾	61⅞
Corning Inc	34⅞	34
C'wide Credit	50¼	50¾
Crestar Finl	55⅛	54¼
Crown Cork	49⅞	48¾
Daimler Bz ADR	95⅞	93¾
Dana Corp	53⅞	51½
Dayton Hudson	48⅞	48⅞
Deere	49½	48
Dell Computer	86⅞	84⅞
Delta Air Lines	127¼	127
Deluxe Corp	34⅞	33½
Dillard Dept St	40	39¼
Disney (Walt)	115¾	112¼
Dominion Res	40¼	40⅞
Donelley (RR)	44⅞	44
Dover Corp	36¼	35½
Dow Chemical	98⅞	95¼
Dow Jones	50¼	48⅞
Dresser	43¼	41⅞
Duke Energy	60⅞	61¼
Dun & Bradstreet	35¼	35
Du Pont	76½	72¼
Eastman Chem	64⅞	62⅞
Eastman Kodak	68⅞	67¼

	Jun 17 midday	Jun 16 close
Eaton Corp	86⅞	84⅞
Edison Intl	29⅞	29⅞
Elect Data Sys	35⅞	34⅞
Emerson Elec	62½	61⅛
Engelhard Corp	21¼	20⅞
Enron Corp	49⅞	48⅞
Entergy	28	27⅞
Ethyl Corp	6½	6½
Exxon	71⅞	69⅞
FDX Holding	61¼	60¼
FMC Corp	71½	70⅞
FPL Group	63⅞	64¼
Fifth Third Banc	53¾	52
Fleet Finl Grp	79⅞	78
Fluor Corp	49⅞	48¼
Ford Motor	54⅞	52
Fort James	44⅞	44¼
Fortune Brands	38⅞	37¼
Franklin Res	52	48⅞
GTE Corp	58	57½
Gannett	67¼	66½
Gap Inc Del	58¼	57⅞
Gateway 2000	47⅞	46¼
Gen Dynamics	45	44¾
Gen Electric	87⅞	85¼
Gen Mills	70¼	69⅞
Gen Motors	69⅞	68¼
Gen Reinsurance	224¼	220¼
Gen Signal	38¾	38¾
Genuine Parts	34	33⅞
Georgia Pac	58	55¾
Gillette	56½	55⅞
Glaxo Welc ADR	58¼	56¼
Goodrich (BF)	49⅞	48⅞
Goodyear Tire	65¼	64¼
Great Lakes	39⅞	39¼
Halliburton	44⅞	43⅞
Harcourt General	57¼	55¼
Heinz (HJ)	55⅞	54¼
Hercules	42⅞	42⅞
Hershey Foods	72¼	70¼
Hewlett Packard	61½	59⅞
Hilton Hotels	31½	31⅛
Home Depot	81⅞	79⅞
Homestake Mng	10½	10¼
Honeywell	80	77¼
Household Intl	46¼	45⅞
Houston Inds	29¾	29⅞
Humana	30¾	29⅞
Ikon Office	22	21½
Illinois Tool	68⅞	66½
Ilinova	30⅞	30¼
INCO	14¼	13¼
Ingersoll Rand	45	43
Inland Steel	28⅞	28¼
Intel Corp	69¼	69⅞
IBM	111⅞	110
Intl Flav & Fr	45¼	44¼
Intl Paper	44⅞	43⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	74	73⅞
Kellogg	40¾	40¼
Kerr-McGee	59¼	58
Kimberly-Clark	45⅞	45⅞
Kmart	20⅞	20¼
Knight-Ridder	55¾	54¼
Lilly (Eli)	65¾	64
Limited Inc	31¼	31¼
Lincoln Nat	88⅞	86⅞
Litton	58	57⅞
Liz Claiborne	51¾	51½
Lockheed Martin	108	106½
Louisiana Pac	18½	18⅞
MCI Comm	53¾	51¾
Manpower Inc	28⅞	27⅞
Marketspan Cp	30¼	31⅞
Marriott Int A	32¾	31½
Marsh & McLnn	86⅞	83
Masco Corp	55⅞	54⅞
May Dept St	64½	63¼
Maytag Corp	50	50⅞
McDonalds	65⅞	64¾
McGraw Hill	82	81¼
Mead Corp	30	29
MediaOne Group	37¼	36½
Medimmun Corp	26⅞	26⅞
Medtronic	59	56⅞
Mellon Bk	66⅞	64¼
Merck Inc	128⅞	127
Merrill Lynch	88⅞	85
Microsoft	91⅞	89¾
Minnesota Mine	83½	81¼
Mirage Resorts	22	21½
Mobil Corp	78½	75¼
Monsanto	58¾	57¼
Morgan (JP)	120⅞	117½
Motorola Inc	50¾	50⅞
Mylan Labs	31⅞	30⅞
Natl Semi	13⅞	13⅞
Natl Service Ind	51¼	50¼
Navistar Intl	28⅞	26¼
NY Times A	71½	71½
Newmont Mng	23½	22⅞
Nike B	44⅞	43⅞
NL Industries	18⅞	18⅞
Nordstrom	70⅞	69½
Norfolk Sthrn	30⅞	30
Nthn State Pwr	29¼	29¾
Norwest Corp	35¾	34½
Occidental Pet	26¼	25½
Office Depot	31½	30½

	Jun 17 midday	Jun 16 close
Oracle	25⅞	24¼
Oryx Energy Co	23¾	21¼
Owens Corning	38	37¼
PPG Industries	70½	69¼
PMI Group	70⅞	70⅞
PNC Bank	56¼	54¼
PP&L Res	23¼	23⅞
Paccar Inc	54⅞	53⅞
Pacificorp	22½	22½
Pac Enterprises	40⅞	40⅞
PaineWebber	43¼	41⅞
Pall Corp	21⅞	21½
Parker Hannifin	39½	37⅞
Peco Energy	28⅞	29⅞
Penney (JC)	76½	75½
Pennzoil	53⅞	52½
Pepsico	41⅞	41½
Pfizer	112¼	109¼
Pharm & Upjhn	42⅞	42½
Phelps Dodge	59⅞	57¼
Philip Morris	37⅞	36⅞
Phillips Pet	50¼	49
Pitney Bowes	47¼	46½
Polaroid	37⅞	36⅞
Procter & Gmbl	89¼	87¼
Providian	72⅞	69⅞
Pub Serv E & G	34¼	34⅞
Quaker Oats	56¼	55⅛
Ralston Purina	112¼	110½
Raychem Corp	32⅞	33¼
Raytheon B	54¾	52
Reebok Intl	28	27⅞
Reliastar Fin	43⅞	43¼
Reynolds Metals	55¼	53½
Rockwell Intl	49⅞	49¼
Rohm & Haas	107¼	105½
Royal Dutch	55⅞	54⅞
Rubbermaid	33¼	32¼
SBC Comms	39⅞	39¼
Safeco Corp	45⅞	44¼
St Paul's Cos	44½	44⅞
Sara Lee Corp	59⅞	58¼
Schering Plough	90⅞	88¼
Schlumberger	73¾	70¼
Seagram	42¼	40½
Sears Roebuck	60¾	59⅞
Shell Trans	42½	42⅞
Sherwin Wilms	32	32⅞
Silicon Graphics	11⅞	11¼
Snap-On-Tools	42⅞	41½
Southern Co	27⅞	28⅞
Southtrust	41¼	40⅞
Sprint Corp	72¼	70⅞
Stanley Works	45⅞	44⅞
Starwood H & R	45¾	44½
Sun Company	39¼	37½
Sun Microsys	44¼	43⅞
Suntrust	79⅞	78¼
Supervalu	43⅞	43¾
Synovus Fin	22¼	22⅞
Sysco Corp	25	24⅞
TRW Inc	54⅞	53⅞
TIG Hldgs	24⅞	23¾
Tandy Corp	42¼	41½
Temple Inland	53⅞	52¾
Tenet Healthcare	31⅞	30½
Tenneco	39¾	39
Texaco	60¾	57⅞
Texas Inst	52⅞	52
Texas Utilities	41¼	40⅞
Textron	74⅞	72½
Thermo Elect	32	31½
Time Warner	78¾	77⅞
Times-Mirror A	64⅞	63½
Timken	36¼	35⅞
Torchmark	41⅞	40¼
Toys R Us	24¼	23⅞
Transamerica	116¼	113⅞
Travelers	62¼	59½
Tribune	68	67
UST Inc	25½	25½
US Bancorp	41⅞	39¼
UAL	79¾	78⅞
Unitrin	68¼	68½
US Inds	25½	26¼
US West	50¼	50⅞
USAirways Group	76⅞	76¾
USX Marathon	33¼	33⅞
Unicom	36	36⅞
Unilever NV	83½	80⅞
Union Camp	52	50½
Union Carbide	48¼	46½
Union Pacific	45⅞	46½
Unisys Corp	26⅞	27¼
United Tech	89⅞	89¾
Unocal Corp	37⅞	38¼
VF Corp	52⅞	52⅞
Venator Group	10⅞	10½
Wal-Mart Stores	58⅞	57½
Warner-Lambert	64½	62¼
Waste Mngmt	33⅛	32¼
Wells Fargo	352½	345⅞
Weyerhaeuser	45⅞	46⅞
Whirlpool	64⅞	63½
Whitman	22¼	22
Winn Dixie	44½	44⅞
Witco Corp	32¼	32½
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	80	[illegible]
Xerox	97¼	91¾
Xilinx Inc	34¼	35½

هذا من الاصل

More efficient call centres are now virtually within reach

THE ICE BOX
THE HOT NEWS ON INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Although millions of credit card transactions and customer service inquiries are made each year over the telephone, call centres can still be enormously inefficient. This was illustrated gloriously in April when football fans made 20 million calls to a World Cup tickets hotline in Paris manned by only 60 operators.

The episode illustrated that it is still difficult to expand the capacity of a call centre in an emergency situation. Call centres are also out of reach for many smaller companies that only need to use them for short periods of time — perhaps for a marketing promotion.

Call centres have also been criticised as being harsh and soulless places to work, where the employees, or call centre agents, perform repetitive tasks while being closely monitored via their computer terminals.

This could all change thanks to "virtual call centres", which are set to bring huge efficiencies to the industry, potentially improve the working environment of agents, and make the technology available to thousands of smaller companies. Ericsson, the Swedish telecoms giant, claims it is the first company to launch a range of virtual call centre products.

At present, calls to customer service lines or direct sales lines — usually via a freephone number — are transferred to vast warehouses where incoming calls are distributed between agents using a system called Automatic Call Distribution. Those agents then process sales or inquiries through a computer terminal.

Ericsson's technology goes one stage further. As with traditional call centres, when a customer phones a freephone number, the telephone network puts him or her through to the first available agent. The catch is that the agent can be anywhere in the world, on potentially any network, and any distance away from their colleagues. They could be working from a flat in North London or a squat in northern France.

The call centre can still be managed as a single entity, complete with all the normal features such as queue announcements, call records and performance monitoring systems. As long as call centre agents have a telephone line and a computer terminal to process sales and inquiries, they can work anywhere.

This brings a number of advantages for businesses that use or operate call centres. The most obvious advantage is that virtual call centres can be set up quickly using existing resources (agents could be given free desks in a company's office, or could work at home). This allows customers to set up temporary call centres for very little cost.

Companies that already own call centres can use the technology to use their resources to full capacity. If a call centre in London has 50 people who are underemployed, they could be used to expand the capacity of another call centre, perhaps in a different country.

In theory, such technology should help stop a situation like the World Cup fiasco ever happening again.

CHRIS AYRES

☐ MACHINES which can print and bind whole books in about a minute have been launched in the US. Publishers say the machines, launched by IBM and Xerox, could make printing rare and specialist books economically viable. One such machine prints black and white pages at a rate of up to 464 impressions a minute, feeding from a seven-mile long roll of paper.

☐ THE notoriously complicated process of registering the name of a business as an Internet address — full of legal pitfalls and technical jargon — has been tackled this week by Charles Russell, a City law firm specialising in intellectual property. It is thought to be the first UK law firm which can check whether any Internet address is already in use, and can register a new one almost instantly.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Lloyd's names provide greater security than corporate capital

From Mr John Burrows

Sir, Lloyd's underwriters who have unlimited liability as sole traders have an entirely different interest to that of the corporate names whose liability is limited by the amount they have invested.

Their interests cannot be the same, as M. H. G. Young suggests (Business Letters, June 3), since those who risk the whole of their wealth must be entitled to a higher return on their investment than those who are mere shareholders. Similarly, the policyholder should know that his insurance is backed by members who have considerable means in excess of their Lloyd's deposits on which they can draw if needed, whereas this is not provided by the corporate spread vehicles whose liability is restricted to their shareholders' paid-up capital.

The Council of Lloyd's must realise that its prime duty is to protect the policyholders on whose business members depend for their future.

Corporate capital does not provide the same security as the whole assets of 6,825 wealthy names.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURROWS,
Copyhold,
Church Lane,
Bury,
Pulborough,
West Sussex,
RH20 1PB.

Auditors and their duty to shareholders

From D. C. Blackwell

Sir, Lord Paul ("Make audits socially responsible", May 28) highlights the very unsatisfactory state of affairs that exists between auditors and their company clients.

I have always understood that the ultimate owners of a company were its shareholders, as is mentioned at the annual general meeting (AGM) of public companies. The shareholders are asked to vote to approve the appointment of the auditors and for the directors to fix their remuneration for the year, yet in the House of Lords ruling in *Caparo Industries v Dickman & others (1990)* it is mentioned that auditors do not have a duty of care to shareholders, a rather absurd situation that surely needs correcting.

When a shareholder votes at an AGM he does so as an individual and makes that decision personally; in voting for the appointment of auditors he generally follows the directors' recommendations, nevertheless his personal vote surely entitles him to a duty-of-care entitlement from those auditors whose appointment he has supported. Indirectly, it is their fees he is paying.

Yours faithfully,
D. C. BLACKWELL,
Grange Park,
Ferring,
West Sussex, BN12 5LS.

When gas runs out we will need coal

From Mrs Pamela Ross

Sir, I write with reference to the Government's proposed deal for coal ("Despair as coal plan is diluted", June 15).

I shall be appalled if the leaders of this nation allow the British coal industry to be killed off for the sake of short-term profit to be made from gas, particularly if much of that profit is going out of this country. When our gas reserves run out, we will still have hundreds of years of native coal reserves which when we may need it, we may no longer be in a position to extract.

The article reports on a scheme proposed by Enron. I heard the chairman of Enron Europe speaking on TV and have written to him to explain I am perfectly satisfied with my current employment, and have no wish for his offer of a "better, cleaner" job. Anyone with experience of former coal areas will know that just throwing money at the area solves very few of the problems associated with pit closures.

Yours faithfully,
PAMELA ROSS,
Manager's PA,
Gascoigne Wood Mine,
and National Committee Member, Energy and Utilities Section, GMB,
Bank House,
Market Place,
Cawood, Selby,
YO8 3SR.

Willing convert to the demutualisation cause

From Paul van Coller

Sir, I was interested in your comments about Nationwide Building Society on May 27.

I have been a loyal supporter of Nationwide for many years but I must say I have become disenchanted because of the imperious attitude of management towards the conversion issue.

To my way of thinking, management has no moral right to employ members' funds to promote their particular viewpoint. This they have done by denigrating people who think otherwise.

I cannot claim to know all the ins and outs but it seems to me building societies lost their relevance when they started offering most of the services traditionally provided by banks.

I am also not happy with the way surviving building societies impose arbitrary new conditions relating to investments simply to preserve the status quo.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL VAN COLLER,
7 Abbotsfield,
Eaglestone,
Milton Keynes, MK6 5AB.

Is the party finally over for Clinton's good-time economy?



AMERICAN AGENDA
BRONWEN MADDOX



America's extraordinary economic performance has bred unblushing triumphalism

This is probably as good as it gets, to answer Jack Nicholson's question in the film of that name. After a year of unblushing triumphalism from the Clinton Administration about the extraordinary performance of the US economy, the mood has changed in just a week to one of fear.

The trigger for that shift, of course, is the chance that the severity of the Japanese recession will sharply worsen the Asian financial crisis.

That regional turmoil has so far had little perceptible effect on the US economy, other than benignly helping to restrain inflation. But it could now become unequivocally damaging. President Clinton yesterday declared, in a joint statement with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, that the two Governments would work together to brake the plummeting yen: he was no doubt prompted by concern for the US as much as for Asia. On the Administration's directions, the New York Federal Reserve waded into the market to buy yen, an intervention estimated by traders at $2 billion.

But even before the yen began its nosedive, Washington's sense of optimism had begun to deflate. Its worries are suddenly entirely economic, drowning out the noise of politics, both the low-key grumble of the Lewinsky saga and the rising shrillness of the rockets-to-China allegations.

Evidence that the gloss on the economic triumph might be fading is surfacing to suggest that the long-predicted fall in Wall Street will finally take place, and that the growth rates that have come to seem a birthright will now falter.

From one point of view, in which the President has been fluent until recently, that seems much too pessimistic. Despite seven straight years of growth, reaching a rate of nearly 4 per cent a year in the past two years, and unemployment at a 28-year low of 4.3 per cent, consumer price inflation has remained low, currently scarcely over 1 per cent.

Many are critical of theories that the US has entered a golden "New Age" of high growth and low inflation. But even the most energetic sceptics have seemed willing for the past few months to accept soothing hints from the Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan that the Asian crisis would take the heat out of inflationary pressures. Wholesale prices have been falling at more than 1 per cent on an annualised basis; global competition has deterred businesses from raising prices, a pressure that has worsened since the Asian currencies collapsed.

For a start, there are signs that the cost of employing workers is set to rise sharply, from increases in both wages and non-wage costs such as healthcare.

Employers expect that they will have to keep putting up wages at 3 per cent to 4 per cent a year; the current strike by workers at two General Motors plants in Flint, Michigan, is a reminder that, with the labour market so tight, the bargaining power of employers is disappearing. This week's sudden exit of "Chainsaw Al" Dunlap from the appliance giant Sunbeam has been greeted as a symbol of the end of the era of the hatchet man.

Employers are also warning of a sharp rise in healthcare costs this year, and probably the next two years as well. Manpower, the biggest US temporary employment agency, saw its shares lose more than a quarter of their value this week after warnings that employees were demanding higher benefits. Those pressures have been absent for the best part of seven years during the revolution in US healthcare, which has sharply cut employers' contributions. But every scrap of that one-off benefit has now filtered through to profits, companies say.

There are also new questions about whether the remarkable productivity growth of recent years has expired. The first quarter of this year showed a fall in output per worker of 0.7 per cent on an annualised basis. The current General Motors strike in Flint, which has severely affected the company's North American production, is a case study of the difficulty in pushing productivity up further. The workers are protesting against GM's plans to sell two plants employing 2,500 people on the grounds that it can make the parts more cheaply in Mexico. They also want GM to complete a promised $300 million investment, but GM says workers have reneged on a pledge to become more efficient. Analysts estimate losses from the 12-day strike are already more than $200 million.

The pressing question is whether those new pressures on companies will show up as inflation, or whether companies will swallow them, squeezing profits. Wall Street analysts are now beginning to look more seriously at the risk of an across-the-board round of profits warnings. Price-earnings multiples would quickly move over the line from the theoretically unjustifiable to the practically unsupportable.

As well as the immediate pressures on the bottom line, businesses also have to contend with a new anti-business mood in Congress, reflected in a more vigorous, even vindictive anti-trust policy. The risk is that hostility to corporate expansion and to mergers, always at its strongest in times of plenty, will be in full force as the business climate becomes harsher.

Those factors were evident before the past week's new round of Asian worries. The threat is that the demand for US exports will now weaken with an immediate further impact on corporate profits.

It is possible to take the word of Goldman Sachs partners at face value that their decision to sell a stake in the firm to outside shareholders is prompted solely by concerns for the business's future. It should not, the partners say, be read as a tip, surpassing all others, that the Dow has peaked. There are other good reasons, though, for coming to that conclusion.

RAC and ruin

THE board of the RAC by last night had enough proxy votes to ensure tomorrow's meeting of members goes their way. But it should still be fun, because Jeffrey Rose, asked to quit as chairman in March, has now written to members priming them to ask all sorts of awkward questions.

He says he had expected to be fired for writing an earlier letter suggesting the RAC should float its motoring services business, which served to bring all the dirty linen into public view. Such deliberate professional suicide sounds unlikely enough to me, but he is also claiming the process of selling motorway services was already well advanced when he raised the idea.

He says Cendant, the American purchaser preferred by the board, had approached the directors of the RAC expressing an interest in buying motorway services "during the two weeks immediately before I wrote to you" on March 27. Rose is convinced he was forced out for suggesting a course of action the board was already well advanced with, which has a ring of truth given how fast the deal was concluded. Needless to say, this is denied by the RAC, which says any approach was only two or three days before the offending letter.



"It's embarrassing to reveal so much"

☐ *I CANNOT begin to imagine why, but the National Bank of Greece has chosen to "celebrate" Britain's dismal tenancy of the Presidency of the European Union with a display of Greek dancing in Trafalgar Square. They were there yesterday. Not Greek dancing as in too much retsina and broken plates, which would have been rather jolly: more a moody, abstract sort, "a meditation on dance, sculpture and the urban environment", says the Bank. Heaven knows what the American tourists made of it.*

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Sold short

CHARLES ALLEN, Granada's chief executive, was at the new headquarters of BDB, the digital broadcaster his company half owns. This is at Marco Polo house in London's Battersea, former headquarters of British Satellite Broadcasting, a company known for its lavish ways. As Allen made his way up in the glass-sided lift, he passed a gymnasium full of exercise bikes and keep-fit equipment. Incensed at this evidence of back-sliding, he made it clear that gymnasiums were not exactly in the budget for BDB staff. It fell to Stephen Grabiner, BDB chief executive, to point out that the "gymnasium" belonged to QVC, the home shopping channel that shares the building. The exercise bikes and other equipment were items for sale.

☐ *WHEN Welsh Water and South Wales Electricity celebrated their merger by changing their name to Hyder, there was much made about how this was Welsh for confidence, which was what the company felt about the future, etc, etc. All hogwash, because Brian Roussel, head of corporate affairs, admits in the in-house magazine that "the company name is a made up word".*

His gaffe comes as part of a debate within the company over how the word should be pronounced. The Welsh say Hudder — remember, Cymru, their country itself, is Cumree. But the City and non-Welsh speakers say High-der. Which for some strange reason is the company's preference — except when one is speaking Welsh.

Liffe option

MARIA BARTIROMO, the so-called "Money Honey" who presents the daily market report from the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, has relocated temporarily to London this morning, to appear on CNBC, the business television channel. There being no floor of the London Stock Exchange any more, an alternative had to be found.

So someone opted for Liffe. The futures market does not allow TV crews on to its floor — there is a media balcony for this. An exception was made, but I worry that Liffe's current woes might not make for happy traders and there could be an ugly incident. Bartiromo shares my fears: "I'm a little afraid to go. People are so distressed at the moment." Best behaviour, chaps.

MARTIN WALLER



Maria Bartiromo takes her life into her hands at Liffe

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Regulator issues MMC warning over power sale

BY ADAM JONES

STEPHEN LITTLECHILD, the electricity regulator, said yesterday that National Power and PowerGen, the electricity generators, risk a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission if they fail to sell some of their power stations.

Professor Littlechild, the Director General of Electricity Supply, said he could not rule out such a measure in order to reduce electricity charges, especially after controversial price increases last winter.

He said there was no "easy answer" to the question of how many power stations would have to be sold by the two big generators. He added that and any demands will have to take the forthcoming Government energy review into account.

However, he said the stations put up for sale would need to be coal-fired rather than gas-fired because they provide the base supply.

"To divest gas-fired plant would not really change the situation very significantly," he said.

Professor Littlechild also opposed an extension of the moratorium on the building of gas-fired plants, which could be a key part of the Government's review to protect the coal industry.

He indicated that he feared such a moratorium could lead to increases in electricity prices. He said the generation market needed new entrants to maintain price competition.

He added he sympathised with the coal industry's plight but protecting it was not his job. "It's a matter for the Government and not myself to worry about the future of the British coal industry," he said.

Professor Littlechild also underlined his determination to reform the electricity pool, the trading market in electricity, which he said needed to be more sophisticated and must learn lessons from overseas markets that were set up more recently. He will report to the Government next month with proposed changes.

He was speaking as the Office of Electricity Regulation put forward its annual report, which showed that complaints against privatised electricity suppliers have hit a record low.

However, exceptions included London Electricity, which saw complaints double, and ScottishPower and Seeboard which saw rises of 42 per cent and 49 per cent respectively.

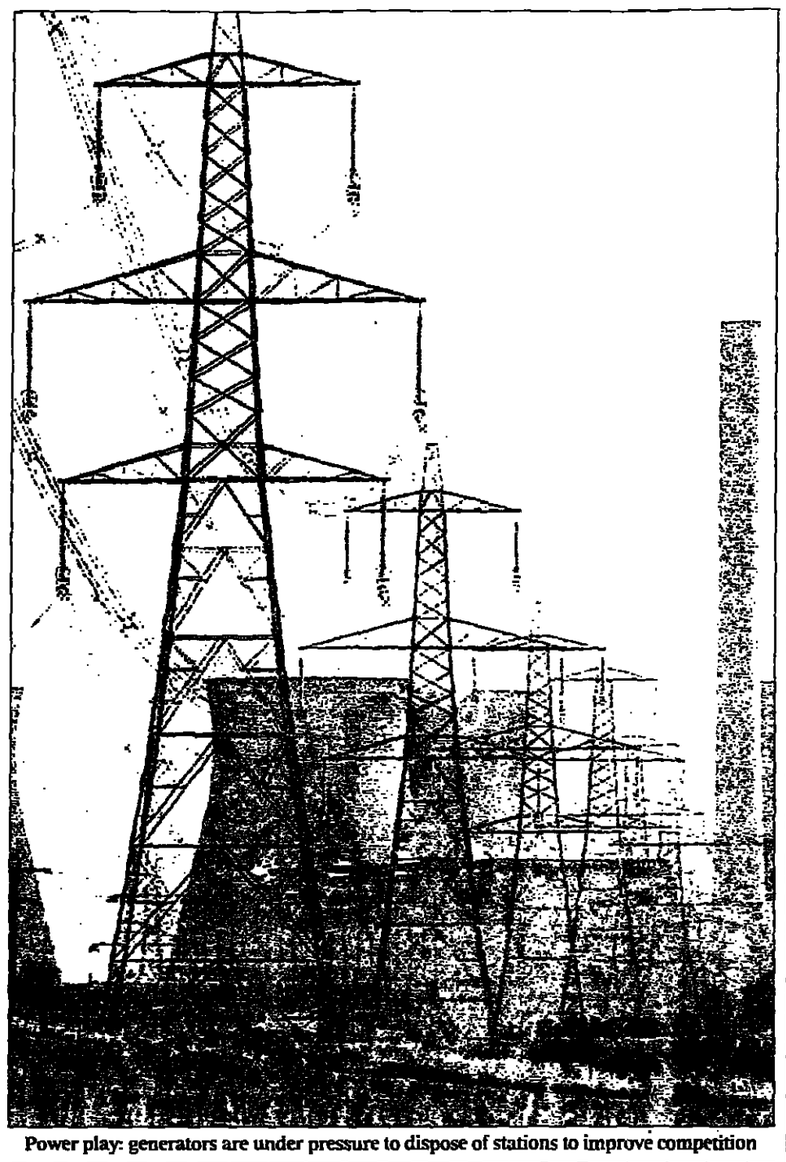
Professor Littlechild said these rises were probably linked to "teething problems" after the consolidation of customer call centres and the introduction of new computer systems. He added that London Electricity's performance had improved in recent months.

The Offer report said domestic electricity prices fell more than 5 per cent in 1997, with industrial prices falling by 8-9 per cent.

Professor Littlechild's salary for 1997 was listed in the report as between £110,001 and £120,000. He has agreed to stand down from the position when the Government appoints an energy regulator with responsibility for both gas and electricity.



Littlechild: seeks reforms



Power play: generators are under pressure to dispose of stations to improve competition

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lufthansa says 1998 will be record year

LUFTHANSA, the German airline, said yesterday it expects record earnings this year, with profits rising above DM2 billion (£673 million). Juergen Weber, the chief executive, told the annual meeting the upbeat forecast was based on results in the first five months of 1998, which showed a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits. The projected pre-tax earnings figure would give an increase of at least 21 per cent on 1997, when pre-tax profits were DM1.65 billion.

He said a key factor driving future earnings would be "iron cost-control". Lufthansa is currently implementing its Program 15 aimed at cutting costs by DM1.5 billion, and would complete this by 1999, two years ahead of schedule. Lufthansa said it plans to develop its alliances with other airlines, which had contributed DM400 million to earnings in 1997. The company is a member of the Star Alliance, which also includes United Airlines, SAS, Air Canada, Thai, Varig, Ansett and Air New Zealand. Bilateral agreements signed with ANA in Japan and Singapore Airlines would help to expand its network.

H&M to open 39 stores

H&M Hennez & Mauritz, the fashion retailer based in Sweden, lifted first half profits 35 per cent to 1.36 billion crowns (£102 million) and announced plans to open 39 new stores. Sales rose 19 per cent to SKr12.07 billion, with 81 per cent attributable to stores outside Sweden. Analysts now expect full-year profits of SKr1.21 billion. Earlier this year H&M opened its first stores in France, where sales had met the company's expectations. "Sales development on all markets has been very favourable," H&M said. It had increased market share in all the countries where it operates.

Lovell back in black

YJ LOVELL HOLDINGS, the troubled house building and general construction company, returned to profit in the first half of the year but said it must accelerate a plan to dispose on non-core assets to raise funds for investment. The company, which underwent a £46 million refinancing in February, reported pre-tax profits of £500,000 in the six months to March 31, against losses of £1.5 million previously, on turnover that rose to £123.6 million from £107.7 million. The company is not yet able to resume dividend payments.

IBM in printer sale

IBM is looking for a buyer for its printer business as it continues to shed assets. After a review of its product range, the computer group decided to concentrate on its mainframe and PC businesses. The printer subsidiary is worth about $2 billion (£1.2 billion) and makes equipment used by credit card companies to print large volumes of bills. IBM has not officially confirmed the disposal but Goldman Sachs is believed to be inviting bids. The most likely buyers are hardware companies with existing printer manufacturing operations including Hewlett Packard.

Porter Chadburn ahead

PORTER CHADBURN, the manufacturer of labels with operations in Britain and America, lifted pre-tax profits to £5.3 million from £4.6 million in the year to March 27, in spite of competitive market conditions and adverse currency movements. Earnings rose to 3.48p a share from 3.15p. The total dividend is increased to 0.9p a share from 0.75p, with a final 0.6p. The shares were unchanged at 32p. The company said trading conditions remained competitive but results in the first quarter were in line with management expectations.

Logica wins Mexico deal

SHARES in Logica, which have almost trebled in the past 12 months, rose a further 107½p to £18.97½p yesterday after the software company said it had won a $5.5 million (£3.32 million) contract from Mexico's Iusacell mobile phone company to provide a new customer care and billing system. Iusacell is Mexico's only full-service wireless carrier and is under the management control of America's Bell Atlantic. Logica will integrate its customer care and billing expertise, act as a master systems integrator for the project and provide support.

Abtrust hit by Victoire failure

BY DOMINIC WALSH

THE collapse of the Pierre Victoire bistro chain has had a knock-on effect at Abtrust Scotland, the development capital group, which has had to write off its £1.5 million investment.

Abtrust, which had already made provisions of 1.5p per share against the cost of the investment, said yesterday it would be writing off a further 0.7p a share, representing the balance of the cost.

Pierre Victoire, which called in receivers from Grant Thornton on Tuesday, first attracted the attention of Abtrust two years ago. It built up a 15 per cent stake in anticipation of a flotation on AIM within a short period, but after the flotation was delayed and eventually pulled it was forced to look at refinancing the business.

An Abtrust source said yesterday: "Two years ago it was a very much smaller company. Since then it has grown quickly but the operational controls didn't grow with it."

He said that although Abtrust believed Pierre Victoire was a a strong brand, only 50 of its 108 restaurants were worth retaining. Pierre Levicky, the chain's founder, has refused to rule out a bid to buy it back from the receivers, but the Abtrust source said it would not be bidding.

The business is believed to have debts of between £5 million and £10 million, with its bankers owed £4 million.

Bradford Trust to launch equity release scheme

BY ROBERT COLE, CITY CORRESPONDENT

BRADFORD Property Trust, the residential property landlord, is pushing to add to its portfolio by entering the market for equity release schemes, which allow people to liquidate wealth tied up in the homes they live in.

The news came as Bradford reported an 11 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £32.2 million for the year to 5 April against £29.1 million last time.

Bradford earns its money through a mixture of rental income and property dealing. Operating profits from rents grew from £22.6 million to £23.7 million. Property dealing yielded £18.5 million against £14.7 million last time.

With the equity release schemes Bradford hopes to buy homes from elderly people while allowing the residents to live rent free in their property for the rest of their lives. Apart from market value, the purchase price of homes bought depends largely on the life expectancy of owner-turned-tenants.

Bradford's method of operating in this sector is different from most other operators, however, who tend to be insurance companies. Most exchange ownership of part of the capital value of a property for an income derived from an annuity. Bradford has joined the Safe Home Income Plan (Ship) self regulating lobby group.

The company's net asset value climbed 16 per cent to 253p from 218p but shares slipped to 264p from 268½p. Earnings per share rose to 15.05p from 13.26p last time and the dividend is 5p, making a total for the year of 9.1p (8.45p).

Premier and Shell in Pakistan gas venture

PREMIER OIL, the exploration specialist, has joined forces with Shell, its larger integrated petroleum rival to develop natural gas interests in Pakistan (Robert Cole writes).

All existing onshore projects of the two companies will be transferred to the new company, except for Premier's interest in the Kandra exploration licence. The Premier/Shell joint venture is valued at $390 million (£235 million).

Premier brings the lion's share of the gas assets to the partnership while Shell brings production and marketing expertise. Shell will also carry the first $60 million of operating cost.

Charles Jamieson, Premier chief executive, said: "The combined strengths of both companies will enable the joint venture to persue additional upstream and downstream opportunities within Pakistan."

Shares of Premier Oil rose 1p to 46¾p yesterday, with Shell up 3¼p at 421¼p.

Bleak BP forecast for oil industry in Asia

BRITISH PETROLEUM expects oil demand in Asia to stagnate this year because of the region's economic crisis (Martin Barrow writes).

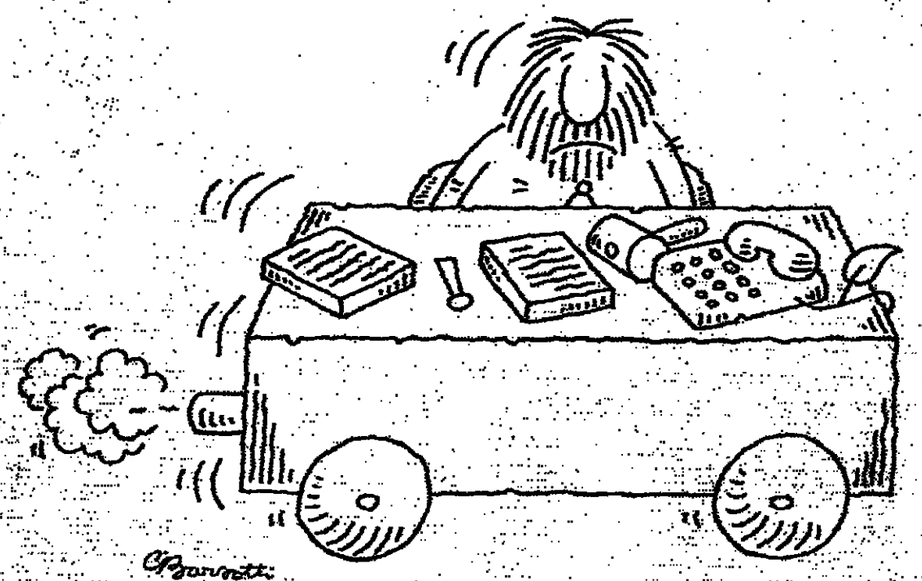
BP's annual statistical review of world energy, published yesterday, also predicted that investment in the oil and gas industry in Asia was likely to be curtailed.

The Asian crisis will put pressure on the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries to implement cuts in output when ministers meet next Wednesday. BP expects cutbacks of about a million barrels per day in an attempt by Opec to lift prices.

The review said the global energy market slowed in 1997, with demand outside the former Soviet Union up just 1.6 per cent, half the rate of 1996.

The largest rise in consumption was in the Republic of Ireland, up 9.8 per cent. India, where demand grew 6.1 per cent, overtook France, Canada and the UK to become the world's sixth largest market.

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BT

ACCOUNTANCY

Devil in the detail of VAT reform

Penny Hamilton on the implications of the customs consultation paper

It has been a long spring for Customs and Excise. In the March Budget it was announced that a consultation document would be published on VAT grouping, allowing companies under common control to be treated as a single taxable person. After some considerable delay the document was released on June 9.

As expected, the consultation document proposes that corporate bodies will not be permitted to form, join or remain in a VAT group if they are involved in any activities that are exempt from VAT, or if they are not entitled or required to be registered for VAT in the UK.

These proposals will have severe implications for businesses in a number of sectors key to the UK economy and dear to the Government's heart. The supply of education is exempt from VAT, but increasingly educational institutions are seeking to eke out limited resources by carrying out trading activities that are liable to VAT.

They are required by charity law to carry on those activities through a separate subsidiary, which is commonly VAT grouped with the institution. This will no longer be possible.

The financial sector, which makes supplies that are primarily exempt from VAT, will also suffer. In particular, insurance companies, which must segregate their various operations into separate corporate entities for regulatory purposes, will be hard hit. Those businesses will incur an increased VAT burden because transactions between group companies (which in the past have been ignored because they were within a VAT group) will now bear irrecoverable VAT, thus increasing some costs by 17.5 per cent.

There will also be a hefty compliance burden because all such intra-group transactions will have to be invoiced, recorded and accounted for and, additionally, checked by Customs and Excise.

Any VAT-grouped company which seeks to raise capital or sell its real property could also be affected. If the value of those transactions breaches certain (yet to be specified) minimum limits, the "offending" company will be required to notify Customs and Excise and will no longer be eligible to remain in the VAT group. No matter how generous the minimum limit may be, all VAT-grouped companies, whatever the sector, will have to monitor their activities both inside and outside the group.

Another far-reaching effect of the proposals is that "pure" holding companies that make no supplies for VAT purposes will no longer be eligible to be part of a VAT group and recover VAT on their expenses. This is a return to the position Customs tried to adopt in 1993 and was persuaded to abandon after strong representations were made on behalf of businesses.

All the reasons that were then advanced about why this was bad news for UK plc are just as valid today. Businesses would be well advised to check their archives and blow the dust off the responses they made last time round.



Penny Hamilton says some fundamental questions remain

The Customs consultation document poses a number of specific questions as to how the proposals could best be implemented, including the level of any minimum limit and the use of a concession for one-off exempt supplies which exceeds that limit. Customs and Excise also wants views as to a possible "buffer zone" to avoid the situation arising where companies could move frequently in and out of groups.

These specific questions addressing the issue of how the proposals should be implemented beg the rather more fundamental question of why they should be introduced at all.

One rationale appears to be the desire to counter avoidance. Customs and Excise can already refuse grouping "for the protection of the revenue", and specific anti-avoidance legislation has been introduced to target many of the perceived abuses. The proposed implementation of general anti-avoidance rules will be another weapon in their armoury. Do they also need this implement of mass destruction?

The second rationale is, according to the document, a revenue cost "which was last estimated to be about £400 million". That figure is taken from a National Audit Office report published some years ago. I suspect that, if pressed, even the most gung-ho customs official would be forced to admit that this is not a figure which would stand up to much scrutiny.

It is clear that there will be some real VAT costs for those businesses which, for the reasons set out above, cannot restructure themselves.

Nevertheless, these proposals may not be as significant a revenue raiser as the Exchequer might hope. Many businesses will be able to reorganise themselves to avoid any VAT cost. The result may well be that there will be increased compliance costs, either one-off or ongoing, which will not be matched by any significant increase in revenue.

The combined effect of real VAT costs and increased compliance burdens is an unattractive cocktail for UK plc. Does a Government that wants to work in partnership with business really want to have the taxation tail wagging the commercial dog?

One thing is certain: businesses ignore this document at their peril. Businesses have until September 30 this year to make their views known and they are urged to do just that.

In responding they should avoid being led by the nose into considering how these proposals should be implemented. They should seek to address the more fundamental, if unasked questions: why and whether they should be introduced at all?

Penny Hamilton is a Partner in the Indirect Taxes division of Coopers & Lybrand.

Leeson highlights a case for change

THE dilemmas involved on all sides in the delicate business of who should pick up the tab after a corporate collapse are revealed as never before in a document that has recently snuck into the public domain. It doesn't look the most enticing of documents. In fact, it looks like something that lawyers have charged an absolute fortune to produce and as a result is incomprehensible to everyone except the drafting team.

It is the proposal for a payout to investors who were unfortunate enough to be left holding loan notes when a vanishing Nick Leeson in Singapore precipitated the collapse of the noble house of Barings.

Some £91 million is shown to be available. Some of that is remaining assets. Some of it is contributions from 30 individual directors of the bust bank. This is rumoured to be a worthwhile amount but is not separately identified within an amount of £23.5 million described as "Contribution from certain other Covenantees". And under "Contribution from Auditors" is the figure of £33 million. "The issues," as the document puts it, "are complex."



AUDIT

ROBERT BRUCE

And it is also immediately obvious that the £33 million that Coopers & Lybrand in the UK and in Singapore and Deloitte & Touche in Singapore have put up is a bargain. "The damages claims in the English Auditors Action," says the document, "have been estimated, before interest, as being at least £1 billion, (including goodwill), or £560 million, (excluding goodwill)." The liquidators reach this figure quite simply. "The claim is in essence," says the document, "for moneys which went out of Barings Futures Singapore on unauthorised trades after the date at which Mr Leeson's activities should have ceased should the audit not have been carried out negligently."

On that simple basis the holders of the loan notes might be expected to hold out for rather more cash. But life is more complicated than that. And in the world of auditor liability nothing is as cut and dried as saying that the auditors should just pay the lot.

For one thing, the Barings case is rather different to the cases against auditors where high payouts have been achieved. In most of those the auditor was being sued because of advice offered, often in informal circumstances. The Barings case is different. This was an audit. And in an audit you rely, in part at least, on the assurances provided by the company's management. Hence the audit firms' tactics of "we shouldn't have to pay a penny" joined with "if we go down, you go down because you supplied the figures". Or as the document sums up the case made by the auditors: any loss suffered "was either caused by the acts and omissions of the management of Barings Group or is too remote to be recoverable". The firm asserts that at the time of the collapse it had not signed its audit opinion and had not completed its audit work. It also maintains that it had not exhausted the audit work which could have led to the identification of Mr Leeson's frauds. Hence the auditors' efforts at arguing contributory negligence by various members of the management team.

And then there is the matter of the auditors' insurance. Coopers' insurance cover is shown to be £47.06 million "subject to an excess which has already been exhausted". Deloitte & Touche Singapore's cover "does not exceed £55 million". And, of course, these are accountancy firms: "Coopers & Lybrand do not accumulate capital reserves beyond those necessary to meet their operating needs and there are, therefore, no material additional reserves available to meet these claims."

And then there are the partners and their assets to fall back on, though, as the document says, "the liquidators also have insufficient information to judge how this will translate into personal assets against which a judgment might be enforced". In the end, the best conclusion it comes to is: "However, while it is clearly the case that if an attempt were made to enforce a very large judgment against a professional partnership this might well precipitate a dissolution of the partnership and the bankruptcy of the individual partners, a professional partnership may be able to raise significant sums to satisfy a judgment in whole or in part while still continuing to practise."

So it is back to the problems of litigation in this area. "The normal hazards of litigation, which may affect good and even strong claims, are increased in this case," says the document, "because of the size of the claims, the complexities of the issues and the proliferation of parties."

So in the end it is a case of taking what is on offer. The holders of the loan notes, taking into account the possibility of interminable appeals and legal actions as the auditors defend themselves all the way down the line and the costs involved in going that route, are probably doing rather well to pick up the cash the auditors have put on the table. But the whole case shows very clearly that the current complexities of auditor liability are not serving anybody's interests. The need for reform is ever more pressing.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Brought to book

AS THE day for the merger draws closer, Coopers & Lybrand partners are being targeted by increasingly enthusiastic headhunters playing on people's fears of what life with Price Waterhouse may be like.

One extremely senior partner answered his telephone the other day to discover that he was the victim of yet another opportunist headhunter working his way diligently through a purloined internal telephone directory. It appeared that the carrot that was being dangled before him was an overseas posting as an internal auditor.

He expressed some surprise. "But you are a manager?" said the headhunter. "Not since 1963," came the reply.

Call me Chris

IT MUST all be part of this business of needing to be seen as more user-friendly by the members. Down at the English ICA the name of this year's new president has been carved on to the marble slab in the entrance hall.

Full and lengthy names are normally de rigueur. Many an Algernon Cholmondely Fortescue Bloggins can be seen on the list.

However, this year it is all so much simpler. "Chris Swinson" is all it says. The man must really mean business.

Game plan

NO FOOTBALL riots at the Moorgate Place headquarters of the English ICA. But the potential was there.

All those inflamed souls in technical directorates and tax faculties were ready for their date with destiny as the England v Tunisia game approached. Plans were made for a large screen to be placed in the Great Hall so staff could watch the big game. But eventually someone got cold feet and cancelled it.

Instead, small knots of staff disappeared into meeting rooms to watch the game. And a good thing too. Television pictures of senior accountants with England flags tattooed on their chests being marched out of the building would have been too much for members to bear.

ROBERT BRUCE

Chancery Division — Law Report June 18 1998 — Chancery Division

Asserting claim as beneficiary

Gillett v Holt and Another

Before Mr Justice Carnwath

[Judgment June 17]

When asserting a claim founded on proprietary estoppel that a testator was bound to bequeath his entire estate to the plaintiff, the plaintiff had to show words or conduct which went beyond a mere statement of intention but amounted to an irrevocable promise by the testator as to how the estate would be disposed of.

The facts relating to such a claim had to be assessed against the presumption relating to wills that a testator's intentions were subject to change.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division when, inter alia, dismissing the claim of the plaintiff, Geoffrey Gillett, that the first defendant, Kenneth Holt, had become subject to an obligation founded on proprietary estoppel to bequeath substantially the whole of his estate to him. The second defendant, David Wood, had, since 1994, replaced the plaintiff as the principal beneficiary of Mr Holt's will.

Mr John McDonnell, QC and Mr James Aldridge for the plaintiff; Mr John Martin, QC and Mr Keith Rowley for the defendants.

MR JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the plaintiff relied on the doctrine of proprietary estoppel as explained in *In re Basham (deceased)* ([1986] 1 WLR 1498). His Lordship considered that and subsequent cases.

The defendant accepted that his Lordship should treat *Basham* as correct but pointed out that if the formulation of the judge in that case was applied too literally, any intending testator who mentioned his intention to leave assets by will ran the risk that the representee would, unknown to the testator, rely to his detriment on the representation and so turn something that was merely an expression of intention into a binding promise.

The defendant suggested that the overriding principle was that the testator should be held to his representation only if it would be unconscionable for him to go back on it. His Lordship agreed that that was the overriding principle.

Another problem was that under the judge's formulation it appeared to be sufficient for the plaintiff to act to his detriment on the promise, even if the promisor did not know he was doing so. The formulation required that the promisor should have encouraged the promisee's belief, but not necessarily that he should have encouraged, or even been aware of, his course of action in reliance on that belief. Thus an equity might be created over the promisor's estate without his knowledge.

His Lordship doubted that the judge had intended that to be the effect of his judgment. Normally it was the promisor's knowledge of the detriment being suffered in reliance on his promise which made it unconscionable for him to go back on it.

The party to be bound therefore had to be aware that the other party was acting to his detriment in reliance on the expectation created or encouraged by the party alleged to be bound.

Particular care was needed where considering proprietary estoppel in the context of an alleged promise to make a will.

His Lordship, referring to *Taylor v Dickens* (*The Times* November 24, 1997), was not convinced that it was critical whether the will was made and revoked, or never made at all; nor that the plaintiff's subjective awareness or unawareness of the possibility of revocation could be the vital factor. It would be odd if the plaintiff's proprietary rights should be diminished merely because he was unfortunate enough to have a wife who regularly reminded him not to count his chickens before they were hatched.

Rather, that homely expression was an apt statement of how, in normal circumstances, and in the absence of a specific promise, any reasonable person would regard, and should be expected by the law to regard, a representation by a living person as to his intentions for his will.

Subject to specific statutory exceptions, such as for dependants, the right to decide, and change one's mind as to the devolution of one's estate was a basic and well understood feature of English law.

The law allowed one to disappoint the expectations of those who had no more than a moral claim on one's affections, however strong. During the lifetime of the potential testator, that was a risk which anyone seeking to rely on such a representation necessarily faced.

Solicitors: Chattertons, Horncastle; Roythorne & Co, Spalding.

Lack of notice justified

Don King Productions Inc v Warren and Another (No 2)

Before Mr Justice Moses

[Judgment June 12]

Although the dire consequences to a defendant of an asset-freezing order would ordinarily require a plaintiff to seek such a *Mareva* injunction on due notice, lack of any logical basis for concealment, by a defendant partner, of receipts of large instalments of income due to the partnership could provide a sound foundation for the grant of such an injunction without notice.

Mr Justice Moses, sitting as a judge of the Chancery Division, so held, in refusing an application by the first and second defendants, Frank John Warren and his associate, Christopher Nigel Roberts, to discharge a *Mareva* injunction granted ex parte against them by Mr Justice Lightman on June 8, on the application of the plaintiff, Don King Productions Inc.

From 1994 until December 1997 Don King Productions, the leading boxing promoter in the United States, and Mr Warren, the leading promoter of boxing and manager of boxers in the United Kingdom, were in effect equal partners in: (a) managing all European registered boxers in whom either, or the partnership had an interest; (b) promoting all boxing bouts in Europe to which either, or the partnership had the promotional rights; (c) the performance of all that might relate to, or be in furtherance of (a) or (b); (d) the world wide exploitation of promotional agreements with European registered boxers.

The principal partnership document provided for Mr Warren to enter a service agreement at £150,000 a year and for Mr Don King to enter a consultancy agreement at £75,000 a year with the partnership; and contained a covenant restricting any involvement, direct or indirect, with any business carried on by the partnership, other than through it.

Certain preliminary issues between the parties had been decided by Mr Justice Lightman on March 27: see ([1998] 2 All ER 608).

The June 8 *Mareva* injunction:

1 Prohibited Mr Warren or Mr Roberts from removing from England and Wales, disposing of, dealing with or diminishing the value of any of their assets, whether in their own names or not and whether solely or jointly owned, up to the value of £1,750,000;

2 Required them, inter alia, to give by 4pm on June 12 a full account of all payments made pursuant to an agreement dated July 5, 1996 between Mr Warren and BSkyB and full details of all other income, other than already disclosed, connected in any way with the business of professional boxing and received by them since September 14, 1994.

Mr Jonathan Hirst, QC and Mr Antony Zacaroli for the defendants; Mr Michael Briggs, QC and Mr Douglas Close for Don King Productions.

MR JUSTICE MOSES said that Mr Warren had, prior to the March 27 judgment, disclosed the BSkyB agreement in a redacted form, clause 2 thereof being blanked out and although elsewhere there had been a reference to "consultancy fees" to be paid quarterly, their amount had not then been disclosed.

The history of events after April 30, when Mr Justice Lightman had ordered further disclosure by Mr Warren, was crucial. In particular, the aforesaid clause 2, which provided Mr Warren with £1 million a year, in quarterly instalments, "for all matters relating to the management, promotion, co-promotion and staging of boxing events", had not been fully disclosed to Don King Production's solicitors until May 27.

The immediate reaction was an assertion that previous orders had been breached and that Don King Productions was entitled to security in the sum of £1,750,000; with a request for confirmation, by June 2, of all sums paid to Mr Warren under clause 2 by BSkyB.

Mr Warren's solicitors replied that they were taking instructions, did not accept that their client was in breach of the judge's order, and that their clients had disclosed all partnership bank statements.

On June 3, Don King Production's solicitors riposted that Don King Productions could not identify any BSkyB agreement receipts in the bank statements, let alone seven entries, each for £250,000; that they still lacked the cash books to which Don King Productions was entitled; and that in the absence of satisfaction by June 5 they would issue a fresh notice of motion.

There being no reply by midday on June 8, they duly applied that afternoon, ex parte, for *Mareva* relief, to the motions judge, by chance, Mr Justice Lightman. Oral argument was proceeding when a messenger delivered a further letter from the defendants' solicitors; not answering the requests made, but contending (a) that the BSkyB agreement had been disclosed to Mr Don King (b) the source and amount of the £250,000 payments had not been disclosed, because personal services rendered as consultant were not exploitation of any relevant rights. The judge had read that letter before granting *Mareva* relief.

His Lordship had not heard Mr Warren's own story; but, since he could not imagine how anybody could advise that clause 2 should not be disclosed, and although the only explanation offered for its redaction, in the letter of June 8, had been indorsed by Mr Hirst, the redaction must have taken place in order to hide the truth.

There had been a late suggestion that Don King Productions had known of, and assented to a consultancy agreement between Mr Warren and BSkyB: but if that were true, what was the justification for regarding payments under it as confidential, or for redacting clause 2?

There still remained the question, whether the application for the *Mareva* injunction ought to have been made upon notice to the defendants. Mr Warren had, from May 29 until June 8, every chance to disclose the truth. As a result of his silence, Don King Productions had been justified in fearing lest Mr Warren's assets might be put beyond the jurisdiction of the court. It was accordingly justified in applying ex parte.

Solicitors: Park Nelson; Bird & Bird.

Costs risk in serving statutory demand

In re a Debtor (No 620 of 1997)

Before Mr Justice Hart

[Judgment June 4]

A creditor who served a statutory demand prior to obtaining judgment did so at his own risk on costs, as the service of a statutory demand was a cause of action in its own right, distinct from any debt in respect of which a parallel ordinary action had been brought.

In contrast to an unsuccessful application for summary judgment, which was a procedural step in the course of a longer action in which costs would often be reserved, where a creditor served a statutory demand and the statutory demand was set aside, the debtor was entitled to the costs of the application to set aside the statutory demand, notwithstanding the real possibility that the evidence adduced to set aside the statutory demand might be rejected on the hearing of the ordinary action.

Mr Justice Hart so held in the Chancery Division dismissing the appeal of Andreas Dionysious Liveras from the costs order made against him by Mr Registrar Baster on March 13, 1998 following the withdrawal of the statutory demand served on the debtor, Mr Ilan Kahlani.

Mr Nicholas Bard for Mr Liveras; Miss Rachel Crasnow for Mr Kahlani.

MR JUSTICE HART said that Mr Liveras had served a statutory demand on Mr Kahlani on November 27, 1997 in respect of a promissory note signed by the debtor as security for a loan made by Mr Liveras to Ridley Bagel Bakeries, and on which payment had initially fallen due during December 1996.

Mr Kahlani, who applied to have the statutory demand set aside on December 16, 1997, initially claimed that the signature on the promissory note was a forgery, although after an exchange of affidavits that became an allegation that the said promissory note had been procured by "other trickery".

It was accepted that the present state of the parties' evidence raised triable issues of fact which would in due course come down to the word of Mr Kahlani against that of Mr Liveras and his son.

Shortly before the debtor's application to set aside was to be heard on March 13, Mr Liveras withdrew the statutory demand on March 8 and commenced a writ action in respect of the same debt, serving a writ on the debtor on March 12.

The only contested issue before Mr Registrar Baster on March 13 was as to costs. Mr Liveras contended that should have been reserved until the conclusion of the writ action but the registrar, with great misgivings, ordered that costs should follow the event and that Mr Liveras should pay Mr Kahlani's costs.

Mr Bard contended that the registrar should have considered that, at least where there was an ongoing ordinary action in respect of the same debt between the parties, the setting aside of a statutory demand should, for the purposes of costs, be treated as a change of venue in an ongoing dispute rather than the discontinuance of a cause of action.

The issues between the parties were still in dispute in the writ action, and there would be a risk of injustice in ordering Mr Liveras to pay the costs of the application to set aside the statutory demand if the judge in the writ action were to reject the evidence advanced by Mr Kahlani.

While his Lordship considered the registrar's misgivings to have been understandable, he had nevertheless made the correct order in deciding that costs should follow the event.

Adopting the approach of Mr Justice Warner in *Cannon Screen Entertainment Ltd v Handmade Films (Distribution) Ltd* ([1989] BCLC 660), it was not improper for a creditor to serve a statutory demand when he was not presently aware of any defence to the claim.

However, unless judgment had already been given in his favour, the creditor did so at his own risk on costs. The service of a statutory demand was a step in bankruptcy proceedings and a cause of action in its own right.

In contrast to an unsuccessful application for summary judgment, which was a procedural step in the course of a longer action, where a creditor served a statutory demand and that statutory demand was set aside, the debtor was entitled to the costs of the application to set aside the statutory demand.

Even if the concerns of the registrar were borne out by subsequent events, those could be remedied using the discretionary powers available to the trial judge after the writ action.

Solicitors: Wedlake Saint, St Albans; Tallents Godfrey & Co, Newark.

Normal costs rule displaced

In re a Debtor (No 510 of 1997)

Before Mr Stanley Burnton, QC

[Judgment May 21]

When, following service of a petition, the debt was paid, the creditor would ordinarily be entitled to his costs on the dismissal of the petition, as he had in substance succeeded in his proceedings against the debtor. However, that inference could be displaced in a particular case, as in the present, where avoidable defects in the creditors' proceedings led to costs being incurred quite unnecessarily for the debtor.

Mr Stanley Burnton, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division, allowing an appeal by Michael John Oben and Michael Patey, petitioning creditors, against the order of Deputy District Judge Mills on March 16, 1998 that the creditors were to pay the costs of their bankruptcy petition against Evelyn Blackman following the dismissal of that petition, despite the debtor having paid the debt on which the petition was based.

Miss Anna Markham for the creditors; Miss Bridget Williamson for the debtor.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the deputy district judge had erred in principle by dismissing the petition on the ground that it was defective, having failed to state the consideration for the debt or the date when it became due as required by rule 6.8 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925).

By so doing he had failed adequately to consider or apply rule 7.55 which provided:

"No insolvency proceedings shall be invalidated by any formal defect or by any irregularity, unless the court considers that substantial injustice has been caused by the defect or irregularity and that the justice cannot be remedied by any order of the court."

The crucial issue on the petition should have been whether the debtor was indebted to the creditors at the date of the statutory demand in respect of the transaction referred to in the demand.

The deputy district judge did not mention that the debt had been paid. When a debt was paid following the service of a petition, the normal inference was that the debt was due and payable at the date of the statutory demand.

In this case the debt related to building work carried out by the creditors. The statutory demand dated March 3, 1997 claimed that that work was completed in 1996.

The debtor did not seek to have the statutory demand set aside, but her affidavit of November 6, 1997 set out facts which, if correct, established that the debt was disputed.

However, when the first hearing was adjourned for the creditors to serve further evidence, and when it seemed to the debtor that the formal points raised would not prevent a bankruptcy order being made, the debtor paid the debt under cover of her solicitors' letter of November 11, 1997, from which his Lordship inferred that the debtor did not have a bona fide defence to the creditors' claim.

The appropriate order for costs must reflect the ultimate success of the creditors but must also reflect the avoidable defects in the creditors' proceedings which gave rise to adjournments. Substantial additional costs were incurred quite unnecessarily by the debtor. The proper order to have made was that there should be no order as to costs.

Solicitors: Roderick O'Driscoll & Partners, Maidstone; Lionel J. Lewis & Co, Blackheath.

Equities make strong rally

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
646	505	**Allied Domecq†**	584½	+ 1½	4.2	14.3
412½	235	Bulmer (HP)	356½		5.2	11.0
42½	19½	Burn Stewart	20		10.6	
775	432	**Diageo▼**	737	+ 47½	3.1	32.2
900	755	Glenmorangie A	885		2.0	30.4
325	258	Highland Dist	302½	- 1½	3.7	14.0
215	160	Matthew Clark	200		12.5	6.5
59½	37½	Marston W	47½		8.2	
3021½	1353½	SA Breweries†	1443½	+ 90½	2.6	

BANKS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1609¾	1178¼	ABN-AMRO	1435	+ 3½	2.2	20.6
1345	980	**Abbey Nat**	1032	+ 32	3.7	15.8
1032	585	**Alliance & Leic**	795	+ 21	3.3	16.0
854	587½	Allied Irish	737½	- 1½	2.3	22.4
458½	373½	Aus New Z	388½	+ 15½	5.2	
5416¼	3821¼	Bank America	5090¾	- 71¼		
813	431	**Bank Scotland†**	680½	+ 6½	1.8	18.2
1996	1068	**Barclays**	1717	+ 40	2.7	15.9
1309	916½	Bk of Ireland	1127½		2.2	
£107¼	£70	Citicorp	9137½	+ 228¾		
1690¼	1565½	Commerzbk	1634¾			
543½	290½	Dai Ichi Kan Yt	309¾	+ 3½	1.2	69.7
5368¼	3666¼	Deutsche Bk	5184¾	- 9½	1.2	
1286¼	1153¾	Espirito Santo†	1175	- 3½	3.2	
531	228½	Fuji Bank Yt	232½	+ 5½	1.6	48.5
2073	1294	**HSBC**	1540	+ 104	4.1	12.3
3002	937	HSBC HK	1464	+ 99	4.3	11.7
1000	700½	**Halifax**	807½	+ 6½	2.7	23.4
842½	642½	Irish Perm	705	- 2½	2.2	20.4
1090	694	**Lloyds TSB**	866	+ 15½	2.5	23.0
916¼	759	Nat Aust Bk	787	+ 21	4.5	
1241	751	**Nat West**	1084	+ 17	3.7	23.1
673	610	Northern Rock	555½	- 1½	2.4	21.0
1140	565	**Royal Bk Scott**	1078½	+ 11½	2.6	20.1
1050	528	**Stand Chart**	674	+ 20	3.4	10.9
£164¼	£164¼	Wells Fargo	£164¼		1.9	
439	337½	Westpac	359½	+ 20½	3.7	
430	308	**Woolwich**	321	- 2½	3.7	16.5

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1195	873	**Bass▼**	1125	+ 39	3.2	19.3
81½	50½	Brk for the Bdr	79	- 1	3.0	21.6
197½	144½	Burtonwood Brw	180½		4.8	15.9
162½	110	City Centre Rest	159½		2.2	24.8
638½	290½	**Compass Gp**	630	+ 10	0.9	41.5
342½	280½	Eldridge P 'A'	332½		3.4	16.1
384½	251½	Enterprise Inns†	371½		2.6	21.3
547½	425	Fuller Sm 'A'	542½		2.7	
538	400	Greenalls Grp†	511½	- 6	4.1	12.3
760	676½	Greene King	741		2.9	15.2
358	260	Groupe Chez Ger	354		1.2	24.5
281½	214½	Hardy Hanson	270		5.3	11.8
2175	1825	Holt JI	2050		4.1	9.9
78	62	Inn Business	71½		3.3	10.8
317	279	Mansfield	315		3.2	
360½	254½	Marston Thmp	328½		3.2	11.6
472½	402½	Morland†	452½		3.7	12.0
384½	267½	Old Eng Pub▼	349½	+ 3	1.1	24.7
35	21½	Paramount	32½			
950	678½	PizzaExpress	930	7½	0.5	42.0
377½	297½	Ramsdens (H)	342½		1.8	31.9
388½	302½	Regent Inns	363½	- 3	1.3	25.1
237½	140½	SFI	225	1½	0.4	39.2
950	717	**Scot & New**	860	+ 10	3.2	17.2
302½	197½	Slug & Lettuce	302	+ ½	2.6	39.6
358	227	Vaux Group†	325	+ 10	4.3	13.4
342	273½	Wetherspoon JD	315		0.8	33.9
1145	850	**Whitbread†**	1008	- 7	3.2	18.1
568½	469	Wolvrhmptn Dt	541		4.5	11.6
558½	381	Yates Bros	522½	- 3	0.8	32.2
742½	637½	Young 'A'	737½	- 2½	2.7	

BUILDING MATERIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76½	49½	Aggregate Indst	71½	+ ½	3.1	24.7
267½	199	Anglian Group	267½	+ 1½	4.8	
447	290	BPB	412	- 1	3.0	18.9
118½	88½	Baggeridge Brk	103½		4.4	11.1
62½	44½	Blockleys†	47½		1.2	54.2
407	271½	**Blue Circle†**	377½	+ 5	3.8	14.3
149	98½	Breedon PLC	130		5.6	15.7
192½	125½	Br Dredging†	180		4.3	20.5
945	705	CRH	886	- 7½	1.3	22.3
62½	47½	Caudwell Rby	62½		7.5	5.3
155½	107½	Cape	153½		5.3	14.2
215½	158½	Caradon	189½	- 1½	5.4	13.1
116½	100½	Caradon pf	109		8.3	
130½	60½	Chelton Gp	61½	- 3	8.7	4.5
219	212½	Dyson (J&J)	212½		3.4	12.7
120	97	Dyson 'A'	97		7.4	5.8
60½	43½	Emcstone	53			
197½	147	Eowin†	163½	+ 2½	7.5	9.0
131½	101½	Gibbs & Dandy	129		3.9	11.9
300	154	Graham Grp	183		4.1	18.2
282½	217½	Halstead (J)	220	- 10	5.6	14.7
395	245	Hanson	374½	- 4½	4.0	12.9
265	179	Hepworth†	240½	- 1	4.7	
178½	120½	Hewetson	172½		4.6	11.4
294½	202½	Heywd Wlm	276½		6.2	10.5
66	43	Ibstock†	61½	+ ½	4.5	15.3
365	250	Johnston†	317½		4.7	17.1
107½	84½	Lilleshall	102½	+ 1	6.1	10.1
129½	82½	Marley	115½	+ 1	5.4	10.0
162½	120	Marshalls†	157	+ ½	4.2	17.4
445½	326½	Meyer Intl	394½	- 3	4.2	
77½	64½	Norcros	62	- ½	3.4	15.2
149½	103½	Pilkington	128½	+ 1½	4.1	
196	156½	Polypipe	180	- 2	2.7	11.9
24	14½	Quiligotti	18½			
1400	740½	RMC	1111	- 2	3.0	16.1
117½	78½	Rubend†	105½		5.8	12.0
143	111½	Rugby Group†	125½	- 4	4.0	18.0
103½	73½	Russell (A)	103½	+ 5	3.6	15.6
276	195½	SIG	241	½	4.0	12.2
3½	1½	SWP	2½			
237½	220½	Sharpe & Fisher	230½		3.4	14.2
25	14½	Spring Ram†	15½	- ½	0.8	
319½	144½	Streamline Hldg	315	+ 1	3.7	17.9
133½	93	Tarmac†	115½	- 3½	6.1	13.8
125	83	Tinnt	110	- 1	6.0	10.9
628½	457	Travis Perkins	556½	- 1½	2.5	17.1
107½	60½	Tudor†	86½		4.3	11.2
372	180½	Ultraframe†	362½		1.2	30.6
570	392	**Wolseley†**	398	- 2	3.6	12.8

CHEMICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
191½	134½	Albright & Wil	174	- 3½	4.1	17.2
142½	106½	Amber Ind	120	13½	6.2	
118	90½	Amberley Gp	112½	+ 3	2.1	
100	72	Allplace Ex	87	+ 4½	10.6	13.1
2912½	2003½	BASF DM	2740¾	+ 53½	2.5	
1109	843	**BOC†**	846½	- 6½	4.1	15.5
555	331½	BTP†	535½	- 4½	2.9	24.1
3034½	2131½	Bayer DM50	2940¾	+ 84¾	1.9	
136	94½	Brent Chems	108		3.5	12.2
342½	210½	Br Vita	295½	- 6	3.7	14.9
187½	138½	Brunner Mond	125½		5.9	10.2
296	252½	Canning (W)†	266½		4.3	12.7
229½	155	City Technology	209		2.3	40.4
474	234	Courtaulds	445	½	3.7	27.0
429	351½	Croda†	418½	- 5	2.5	20.2
284½	202½	Doeflex	268½		4.0	11.5
178	116	Elementis	163½	- 2		25.9
313½	250½	Ellis & Everard	300½		4.2	12.9
78½	53½	Euro Colour	72½	+ 1	4.4	
246½	138½	Gibbon	245		4.3	
94½	64½	Hickson†	84		1.2	14.6
3062½	2096½	Hoechst	2787½	+ 90½	1.8	
1244	738½	**ICI**	1050	+ 17	3.0	41.7
321½	189	Inspec	290	+ 1	2.9	13.1
193½	137½	Kalon	141½		5.5	21.0
890½	605	Laporte	793½	- 23	3.2	16.0
75	47	Merrant	65		4.6	6.2
35	27	Metrotect	33½		3.9	8.5
380	310	Porvair	310	- 2½	2.5	17.3
231	181½	Scapa	202	3	3.6	10.9
26½	16½	Sutcliffe Speakt	23		6.5	
1761½	1450½	Takeda Chem†	1500½	+ 37½	0.6	19.3
248	196	Victrex	196½	11½	3.2	15.5
685	595	Wolstnhlme R	627½		5.4	10.0
240	190	Yorks Gp	221	- 1½	5.4	14.0
440	352½	Yule Catto†	400½	+ 2	3.1	16.4

CONSTRUCTION

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
58½	19½	AAF Inds	45			
375	230	Abbey	375		2.2	28.2
480	322½	Alleo	464	- 6½	2.4	22.8
217½	114	Amec†	206½	- 5½	3.0	20.3
875	400	Amey	850	- 2½	1.6	27.3
260	143	Andrews Sykes	212½	+ 3½	1.8	21.2
286½	180	Ashtead	242½	- 4	1.2	30.2
48½	28½	Avoncroft	41½		2.5	7.9
46	26½	Banft	40	- ½	4.5	10.7
73	48½	Barcom	70		2.7	17.3
341	224	Barratt Devs	318	- 3½	3.7	14.0
235	161½	Beazer	202	- 10½	4.2	11.4
401½	320½	Bellway†	351½	- 11	3.4	11.7
29½	18½	Bellwinch	29½			10.1
95½	46½	Ben Bailey	72½		3.8	8.4
784½	582½	Berkeley Gp	639	- 18	1.7	12.3
170	146	Bett Bros	160	- 1	5.5	4.4
315	255	Boot (Henry)	256		4.2	9.5
276½	192½	Bovis Homes	255		4.6	11.2
169½	105	Brandon Hire	160½	- 3	2.5	19.6
42½	30½	Butorno Grp	38½		4.5	15.5
155½	109	Bryant	128½	- 2½	4.9	11.8
129½	102½	CALA	126	- ½	3.9	7.8
4	3	Campbell & Arm#	3			
141½	83½	Clarke T	136½		5.6	9.4
42½	30	Costain	37½	- 1		
125½	97½	Countryside	108½	- 2½	3.8	8.5
145½	94½	Crest Nicholson	134½	+ ½	3.5	11.4
122½	85½	Cussons	116½	- 1	4.8	9.0
380	160	Eve Group	252½	- 15½	2.6	18.7
27½	19½	Galliford	23½	+ ½	5.8	13.2
1100	1010	Gleeson (MJ)	1012½		2.3	14.9
175	98	Havelock Euro†	129		4.6	8.7
212	152	Hewden-Stuart†	195	- 5	2.4	23.4
28	20	Howard Hldgs	23		5.4	22.8
788	369½	Jarvis	725½	+ 27	1.1	37.2
252½	181	Keller	242½	- 2½	2.7	15.2
347½	195½	Kier	247½		3.6	12.4
393	309½	Laing (J)†	393	+ 1½	3.3	21.1
130½	117½	Laing 6¼% Cv Pf	130		6.2	
14½	8¼	Lovell (YJ)	13½	+ ½		
212½	155½	Maunders (J)	209½		3.8	12.1
181½	135½	McAlpine (A)	165½		5.7	9.8
191½	113½	McCarthy & St	187½		2.2	13.7
142½	70	McInerney	132½		0.9	15.1
246½	171½	Morgan Sindall	241½	- 1	2.7	14.7
397½	301	Morrison Const	380		1.9	
150	77½	Mowlem (J)†	149½	+ ½	2.3	13.7
256½	182½	Persimmon	232	- 6	5.4	10.9
109½	80½	Peterhouse	98½	- 1	4.7	6.8
138½	112	Pochins	129½		2.7	14.2
168½	116	Prowting†	150	- 2½	3.8	9.4
198	142½	Redrow	171½	- 1½	2.7	12.7
325	222½	Spandler	317½		1.5	18.3
94½	71½	Swan Hill	78½		4.4	14.2
142½	114	Tay Homes	121½	- 1	7.8	9.8
238	174	Taylor Woodrw†	219		2.8	16.6
306	190	Tilbury Dougls†	303½	+ 3	4.0	16.7
29½	21½	Try Group	25½		2.8	9.8
82½	63½	Vibroplant	72		6.3	29.3
139½	109½	Wardloes	128½	+ 2	5.3	
60	38½	Ward Hldgs	51½	+ 1	6.3	7.3
272½	228½	Westbury†	257½	+ 7	3.6	11.0
16	13½	Wiggins	15	+ ½		22.0
191	139½	Wilson (C)	154	- 1½	4.5	
733	511	Wilson Bowdn	727½	- 3½	2.1	14.9
143½	92½	Wimpey G	134	+ ½	5.3	11.1

DISTRIBUTORS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
257½	182½	Acton Co Spls	251		1.4	20.9
350	297½	Adam & Harvey	307½		9.2	4.6
24½	9½	Alexanders	20½			
2	1½	Ass Br Eng	1½			68.6
457	360	BSS Group†	355		7.7	
20½	12½	Bearing Power	19½			
34½	34½	Bogod 'A'	34½		3.3	5.5
735	550	Brammer†	692½	- 13	3.1	15.5
16½	10½	Bridgend Grp†	16		1.6	25.5
113½	79	Brit Fittings	93½		6.8	7.7
372½	345	Caffyns	352½		5.1	
206	94	Car Group†	94	- 1	6.4	10.7
175½	134½	Coverdale†	156½	- 1	3.2	9.9
54½	31½	Cook (DC)	49		6.2	7.0
139½	96½	Dag Motors	132½		8.3	7.1
125½	109½	Dennans El	130	+ ½	3.2	7.8
276	210	Diploma†	245½	- 5½	7.4	10.2
601	450	Electrocomponts†	512	- 28	2.2	27.1
186	143½	Eurodis Elec	165		4.0	28.4
122	84½	European Mtr	106½	- 1	7.4	7.8
305	250½	Evans Halshaw	274½	- 9	7.7	8.8
70½	39½	Fife Indmar	64½		7.2	7.3
400½	355½	Finelist Grp	356½		2.9	14.2
28	21½	Gardiner	28		4.5	11.9
82½	60½	Glencheerton	66		3.8	9.4
135½	88½	Gowrings	126½	- 1	3.5	12.0
20½	13	HR Owen	17½	+ ½	5.6	11.5
405	340	Headlam†	383½		2.3	19.9
160	135	Holders Tech	135		6.2	8.4
120	39½	ISA Intl	41	- 21½	10.0	4.0
250	138½	Inchcape	205½	+ ½	5.8	24.7
80	57½	Jacks (Wm)†	65		6.7	6.1
583½	351½	Kwik-Fit	536	- ½	1.5	24.1
614	427½	Lex Service	535	- 3½	4.2	13.3
123	100	Lookers	105	+ ½	10.1	6.6
517	351	Menzies (John)	517		3.3	16.7
5½	2½	Middlesex	2½	- ½	5.6	5.5
19½	14½	Molddest†	16		3.8	
326½	242	Nortcan	281½	+ 6½	3.9	11.4
291	197½	Northamber	222½	- 1	1.7	14.8
342	278	Parkio	278½	- 1	3.9	13.4
312½	237½	Pendragon	237½	- 2½	5.6	11.2
356	167½	Perry Gpt	202½	- 5½	5.9	7.9
443	272	Premier Farnell†	298½	- 15	5.4	11.8
164½	119½	Quicke Group	135½	- 2	7.1	9.3
285	140	REA	175		2.3	29.4
3	1½	Reece	2½			
38½	30½	Ring	35½			
12½	4½	Rorcon	5½	- ½		
5½	3½	Ross Gp	4½			10.1
112½	97½	Ryland	100		5.5	7.6
31½	25½	SEP Ind	30½		5.5	14.0
30	16½	Saltac	18	- 1		
290	211½	Sanderson Bram	266½	- 8	2.6	9.7
67½	48	Sedgemoor†	50½	- ½	5.0	
273½	226½	Sytner	254	- 7½	3.4	11.9
195½	142½	Time Products	143½		11.5	7.5
236	132½	Trust Motor Grp†	230		1.4	4.0
440	390	UMECO	422		2.1	19.2
124	88½	Unitd Oseas Gp	103½		1.4	23.8
299½	244½	Vardy (Reg)	261½	- 3½	4.0	
800	665	WF Elect	765		2.6	23.6
192½	140	Wyko	180		2.5	15.1
165½	135	Young (H)†	160½	- 1	3.7	10.8

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
330	285	Alfodapsdo▼	288	- 1	2.6	21.3
385	229	Ascot Hldgs	335	+ 6	4.4	10.1
642	456	Broken Hill	467½	+ 12½	4.0	13.9
697½	466½	**BAT†**	571	+ 14	5.0	14.5
43½	28	Brierley Inv	29½	+ ½	10.0	7.7
279½	167	Cookson	218½	- 4	4.2	12.7
277½	217½	Cosalt†	249	- 1½	5.8	8.4
613	410	DCC†	555		1.7	17.9
383	302	Gallaher	321	- 2	7.5	9.1
450½	235	Hutch Whampo	386½	+ 18½	4.8	
474½	383½	Imperial Tob†	438½	- 1½	6.2	10.5
335½	164½	Jardine Math†	171½	+ 7½	8.8	8.1
94½	71½	Lonrho Africa	79½	- ½	3.7	19.6
623½	474½	Powell Duffryn	538	7	6.0	13.0
147	101	Staveley	113	- 1	10.6	26.4
368½	174½	Swire Pacific	217½	+ 15½	6.3	6.9
383	241½	TT Group	314	- 8½	3.5	12.0
384½	288	Tomkins	337½	- 6½	3.6	14.3
250	207½	Unigate†	242½		6.7	12.3
570	415	Wardle Storeys†	522½		5.0	15.2
381½	296½	Wassall	297½	- 7½	2.6	13.6
135½	78½	Whitecroft	90½		6.4	14.7

ELECTRICITY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
615½	310	**Br Energy†**	558	- 42	3.3	21.0
889½	600	**Energy Group**	855		3.1	17.2
400	298½	**National Grid▼**	386½	+ 10½	3.9	19.5
700	516	**National Power†**	560	- 6½	6.0	11.7
900	725	**PowerGen†**	783	- 16	4.6	12.2
597½	507½	Hydro-Elect	547	- 7	4.5	11.9
590	475	**Scottish Power†**	535½	- 2½	4.8	13.0
580	467	Southern Elec	518½	- 11½	5.9	12.7
615	522	Viridian	595½		5.0	13.1

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
990	715	ARM Holdings	860	+ 35		
410	304½	Acal†	402½		3.4	
1257½	690	Ammral	1197½	- 2½	0.3	
58½	27½	Amstrad	49	+ 2½	1.3	
35	26½	Arlesi†	30½	+ 1	5.3	10.0
129½	85½	Astec	85½	- 1½	2.3	9.1
72	43½	Arlyn	62½	- ½		
182½	127½	BICC†	146½	- ½	6.8	
95½	51½	Beales Hunter	82½		15.5	8.0
437½	260	Bliss	430		4.3	13.9
604½	345½	Bowthorpe†	547½	- 11½	2.6	20.9
18	12	Bulgin At	16½		9.5	9.6
205½	150½	CML Micro	174½		5.2	
27½	10	Channel Hldgs	14		10.3	4.4
51	38½	Chloride	47		1.8	11.3
109½	64½	Clayhithe	107		4.2	11.8
912½	722½	Critchley†	910	+ 5	2.0	
342½	213½	Delta†	289	- 7½	5.5	11.1
451	332	Domino	444		3.4	15.6
77½	51	Dowding Mills	62½	- 1	6.4	11.8
320	240	Druck	295		0.8	31.8
1250	825	Electrolux 'B'	1062½	+ 9½	8.9	28.1
28	17	Emess	27½	+ ½	2.7	19.8
1862½	1066½	Ericsson 'B'	1665¾	+ 75	0.8	35.9
491½	311	Eurotherm	425		2.9	18.7
590	386½	Farey Group	386½	- 10	3.0	11.1
587½	403½	Filtronic	422½	+ 1½	0.5	29.2
18½	7½	Forward Tech	14½			
550	338	**GEC**	492½	- 2½	3.4	32.7
49½	35½	Ind Control	46		1.4	
22	15	Intelek	17		7.2	
81	54½	LPA	74½	- 2	4.0	23.6
1004½	445	Mitel	787½	+ 15½		
180½	117½	Network Tech†	155		1.0	17.5
372	256	Oxford Inst	344	- 3½	3.0	
111	23½	Pace Micro	77		3.2	
6271¼	3450	Philips Lmp nv	5259¾	+ 109¾	0.9	23.9
88½	38½	Plasmon	78½	+ 3½		
356	272½	Pressac	302½	+ 1	1.8	22.2
60½	27	Prestwick†	30½	- ½	4.5	8.6
462½	204	Psion	205	- 2½	1.5	19.9
409½	343½	Racal Elect	368½	- 6½	2.0	69.4
97½	51½	Radamec†	88½		4.4	19.5
505	335	Renishaw	454		2.5	26.6
1½	1½	Rodime	1½			
292½	191½	Roxboro	272½		3.3	14.1
361½	202½	SDx Bus Sys	316		1.0	31.1
377½	244	Servomex	262½	+ 2½	4.5	12.9
59½	37½	Silvermines†	53	- 1½	3.4	12.0
5012½	4128½	Sony†	4653¾	+ 181¼	0.6	
72½	58½	TGI	59½	½	7.5	6.2
125	88½	TLG†	114		4.0	
62	7	Tadpole Tech	18	+ ½		
77½	38½	Telemetrix†	59½	+ 2	3.4	14.3
365	230	Telspec	310	- 3½		38.0
159½	122½	Thorpe FW	144	½	4.0	7.8
159½	70½	Total Systems	136½		1.3	29.5
160	100	Tunstall†	159		4.1	21.0
18	7	Ultima Networks	11	- ½	9.9	
111	66½	Verity	93	+ ½	0.7	
195½	84½	Vero	190	+ 1½	3.8	17.1
40½	23½	Vigilon Technology	25		2.0	
652	460	Volex	651		4.4	

ENGINEERING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
312½	217½	AIM	292½		3.2	13.8
44	28½	ASW	29½			
255	145	Alumasc	210½	- 1	5.0	9.6
214	129½	Alvest	262½		2.1	14.3
176½	159½	Ash & Lacy	169	- ½	5.7	8.0
125	70	Ayrshire Metal	70		9.8	4.5
535½	345½	BBA	433½	- 19½	1.8	17.7
230½	154½	**BTR▼**	174	3	5.5	11.4
97½	68½	BWI	86½		4.6	9.8
92½	61	Babcock	81	- ½	2.3	
13	6½	Bailey (CH)	10½		3.0	
110½	77	Baynes (Charles)	95½	- 3½	4.2	13.5
27½	9	Beauford	9		11.1	4.7
261½	181½	Berisford†	241		3.2	10.9
109	84	Bertrd Cs Uo Ln	102		4.9	
1265	861½	Bodycote†	1105	- 15	1.1	25.4
44½	35½	Boom Inds	40			
20½	15½	Brackway	15½		7.1	7.2
141	112½	Bridport	112½		5.3	12.6
587	381½	**Br Aerospace**	482	+ 13	1.3	20.9
172	122½	**Br Steel**	141½	+ 1	9.3	11.4
159½	128½	Brooke Indt†	130		5.0	6.5
16½	9½	Bunel	10½	+ ½	6.1	4.2
107½	92½	Bullough	105	- ½	6.9	10.8
36	25½	Carbo	32		4.3	6.5
217½	150	Carclo Eng	181½	- 1	7.4	10.8
232½	181½	Castings	215½	- 2	3.5	
272½	190	Chamberlin Hill	207½	- 15	5.6	
780	570	Charter	692½	- 1	4.5	22.5
175½	110½	Chemring	171½		3.6	
275	142	Clyde Blowers†	142½		6.1	22.6
1247½	732½	Cobham†	1135	- 5	1.5	29.7
430	320	Cohen (A)	350	+ 10		
150½	105½	Concentric†	140	- 2	4.6	25.4
368½	184½	David Brown†	232½		4.9	13.8
611	282½	FKS	504		3.5	17.6
32½	16	Elco	28½	+ 1		11.6
50	27	Energy Tech†	47½		3.9	
161½	124½	Expamet	155½		3.1	15.0
238½	147½	FKI	190½	- 2½	4.0	11.5
218	167½	Fenner	192½	- 4	3.0	13.8
3	1½	Ferrum	2½			
41	29	Firth Hldgs	30	- 1	10.0	22.5
182	126½	Firth Rixson	152	- 8½	2.4	15.9
32½	17½	Flare	24½		5.1	2.2
116	91½	GEI Intl	110½	½	4.5	
206½	148½	Galtun Engt	206½	+ 2½	4.8	7.3
331½	216½	Glynwed	257	- 4	6.4	10.4
159½	92½	Hallen MacLn	147½		2.6	15.2
256	185	Hadleigh	240		4.0	
257	160	Hall Eng	170	- 1½	6.1	6.8
140½	99½	Halma	125	+ 4	2.5	16.7
83½	64½	Hampson Ind	78		4.0	15.9
65½	32½	Hay (Norman)†	62½		2.8	17.8
63½	40½	Headway	55		3.6	7.4
71½	42½	Hill & Smith	65	+ 1	8.3	15.6
116	65½	Hiw Grp	116		5.0	15.4
273	210½	Hunting†	266½		3.8	14.2
532	378	IMI	437½	- 10½	3.3	12.9
652	467½	Johnson Matth	567½	- 2	3.3	12.4
38½	22½	Jones Sherman	22½		8.3	9.3
435	385	Kelsey Indt	390	- 5	3.8	6.2
418	299½	Lincat†	380		3.2	12.0
32½	22½	Locker (T)†	25½		4.9	7.4
22½	16½	MS Intl	19½		3.8	
502½	403½	Mang Bronz	496½		2.5	20.6
569½	377½	McKechnie†	499½	- 5½	4.3	13.1
179½	155½	McLeod Russel	175		5.2	12.1
242½	154½	Meggitt	205	- 1	2.9	22.1
115	82½	Metalrax	98½	- 3½	5.3	13.4
14½	11½	MetalTech	14			7.6
255½	142½	Metsec†	256½		2.4	14.2
357½	232½	Molins	237½	5	7.9	
501½	392½	Morgan Crucl	406	- 14½	4.8	12.9
57½	49½	Polyhedron†	50½		9.3	7.1
60½	45	Powerscreen	112½	+ 13	11.7	2.9
230½	155½	Quadramatic†	212½	- 1	6.1	11.3
50	20½	Qalcroft Grp	35½	+ 1		
60	50	Rafford Mtsa	55			
290½	226½	Renold†	257½	- 1	3.6	
87½	73	Richardson West	85	+ 1½	6.6	7.5
309	188	**Rolls-Royce†**	230	+ 2	2.8	19.7
387	269	Rotork	375		3.1	25.6
246½	140	Rubicon	221½		3.5	15.8
1425	1125	SKF 'B'	1125	- 12½	3.5	10.5
248	139½	Senior Eng	219	- 2	1.9	20.2
612½	461½	Sollar-Riv	497½	+ 7½	2.5	15.4
1560	975	**Siebe**	1327	- 5	1.4	19.8
146½	114½	Six Hundred	134		5.3	
1030	702	**Smiths Ind**	852	+ 12	2.7	19.1
18½	9	Solvent	9½	- ½	2.7	
706	542½	Spirax Sarco	607		3.1	15.8
326½	263½	Stothert'nd	324		4.3	
650	424	TI	510	- 9	3.1	16.0
116½	89½	Tinsley (E)	110½		7.5	
97½	64½	Transtec†	73		4.6	10.4
425	347½	Ultra Elect	415	- 1½	2.2	20.3
76½	55½	Utd Indst	64½	+ 2	5.0	9.3
252½	198	Vickers	232	- ½	3.9	14.4
11	7½	Villiers Gp	9			
767	564	Vitec†	747½		2.3	14.0
900	740	Volper Thorny	851½		4.3	12.3
402	380	Wagon Ind	391½		3.8	17.4
314½	227½	Weir	232	- 3	4.8	10.8
185½	137½	Wellington Hdg	160½	- 2	5.7	12.2
89½	55	Wescol	70	+ 2½	2.9	15.5
917½	750	Whatman	917½	+ 2½	2.1	24.1
60	42½	Widney	57	+ 1	7.8	6.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
156½	123	Adwest	148½		5.3	11.6
223	150	Airflow Stream	184	- 1	5.4	
701	617	Avon Rubber†	675		3.2	13.4
345	300	Bostrom	307½		3.0	10.8
193½	114½	Britax†	177	- 4	2.2	19.7
395½	251½	Dennis	372½		3.3	15.6
413½	277½	First Tech	412½		1.2	28.9
930	576½	**GKN**	800½	+ 13	1.8	20.4
4671¼	3416¾	General Mtr	4196¾	+ 43¾	2.9	
607	414½	Henlys	572		3.6	14.5
2326½	1991¾	Honda Motor†	2128¾	+ 76½	0.4	
480	384½	Laird	395	8½	3.6	10.4
288	194	**LucasVarity†**	252	3	2.2	14.5
244½	159½	Mayflower	209½	- 5½	1.6	29.5
136	95½	Syltone	109	- 3	7.5	9.0
261	252½	T & N	259		4.4	15.0
31½	22½	Toad	24½			
51½	36½	Wickson	49½	+ 2	2.1	13.3

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
670	535	**AB Food**	555½	- 10½	2.3	17.2
270	215	Acatos & Hutch	237		5.5	25.0
37	24½	Albert Fisher	29½		17.0	9.6
285	192½	Banks (S C)	194	+ 1	7.4	7.0
507	417	Barr (AG)	506		4.2	
45	34	Bensons Crisp	41½		4.7	8.9
360	209	Booker†	242½	- 3½	12.4	10.8
1077½	571½	Brake Bros†	991	4	1.4	27.1
122	85	CPL Aromas†	121		5.0	10.3
995	600	**Cadbury-Schwpt**	944	+ 49	1.9	25.4
262	135	Carrs Milling	135		10.6	6.6
345½	234½	Cranswick	334	- 3½	4.4	
371	253	Dairy Crest Group†	352½		3.9	13.7
416½	273½	Dalgety	410	- ½	2.9	
67	37½	Daniels St	53½		1.2	17.6
545½	375	Devro	533½		2.2	22.7
188½	149½	Express Dairies	169½	- 1½	6.1	12.8
142½	99	Finlay (James)	127	+ ½	3.3	13.8
611	404	Geest†	576		2.2	23.1
15½	8½	Global	10½		8.3	13.4
380	285	Greencore†	305		2.9	16.8
237½	164½	Hazlewood Fds	228	+ ½	4.1	16.6
214½	142	Hillsdown†	169		7.0	10.6
415	392	Linton Park†	412½		6.7	7.2
113½	86	Matthews (B)	112½		4.8	17.2
227½	205½	Merroc (V)	215½		4.6	11.3
240	182	Nim Foods	215	- ½	3.8	19.5
20	14½	Nichsons Fn	16½	+ ½	2.3	
127½	89½	Paramount Foods	121½	- 3	5.3	13.9
57	28½	Pascoe's	39½			
149½	82½	Perkins Food	148		3.9	19.1
92	69½	Plass & Gen	78½	- 3		
92	60	Sentry Farm	68½	+ 1	5.5	
39	19½	Samo Food	34	+ ½		
583	440½	Tate & Lyle†	500	- 2	3.4	11.2
167	111½	Trout	148½		5.2	11.4
738½	591½	Unigate	688½	+ 10½	4.1	14.5
707	346½	**Unilever†**	688½	+ 8½	1.5	32.3
5063¾	3500	Unilever (NV)	4943¾	+ 40¼	1.4	13.6
300	216½	Utd Biscuits†	249	- 4	5.3	17.7
62½	44½	WT Foods	60	4	3.1	23.0

HEALTHCARE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
524½	318½	Alliance UniChem†	519½	+ 4½	2.3	23.0
167	135	Assoc Nursg	165		2.9	26.0
1003	693	Bespak	1003		1.6	28.7
535	115	Biocompat Intl	132½			
215	144	Care UK†	215	+ 6½	6.8	23.1
88½	28½	Celsis	44			
550½	389½	Community H	546½		2.7	19.9
34½	26½	CrestaCare	33½		3.8	15.7
18½	7½	Eurovond	16			
164½	122½	Ferraris Group	135	- 1½	3.2	11.6
172½	144½	Gyrus	169½			
233	141	Hardign Tect	219½		1.8	25.7
138½	91½	Innovative Tech	93½	- 2		
95	68	Intercare Gp†	81½		5.3	45.1
593	495	Isotron	589		1.4	21.1
222	150	Lon Intl†	206½		1.5	
360	190½	Nestor Hlth	344½	- 3	1.4	37.0
532	335½	Nycomed Amsh	450	+ 32½	1.0	25.8
5½	5½	Promex Health#	5½			
9	6½	Regina	9½			
508½	265½	Scholl	496½	- 2	2.2	27.3
822½	501½	Seton Scholl	773½	- 7½	1.6	
810	507½	Shield Diag	530	+ 12½		
230	171½	Sinclair Mont	185		0.1	65.9
194	150	Smith & Nephew	161	+ 1	3.9	14.9
2½	1½	Tamara	2	- ½	5.7	
412½	295	West Hlthcare	308½	- 1½	2.8	14.0

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

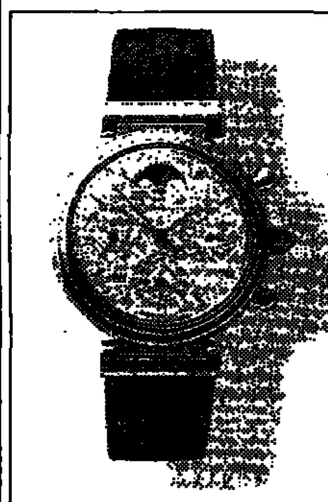
1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
177½	132½	Airsprung	153½	- 3	6.2	
220	165½	Alba	214	+ 1	3.9	
85	55	Albion	64	11	6.5	7.3
166½	120½	Alexandra Wt	165	- ½	5.3	13.2
187½	124	Allied Textile	136½	- 1	7.7	8.9
29½	13½	Armour	22½	+ 2	4.5	51.6
205	157	BLP Group	170		5.5	6.1
285½	206	Baird (Wm)†	226½		5.4	12.2
53½	48½	Balston Burzad	48½		1.9	
149½	97½	Black Arrow	112½		4.8	9.3
421½	384	Black (Peter)	384		2.1	17.9
94½	76	British Mohair	90		5.6	7.6
88½	42	Claremont Garments	42	- 4	14.9	
100	81	Coats Viyella†	81	- 3½	5.8	29.2
182½	146	Cornwell Prb Sp	151	- ½	2.7	12.1
368	286½	Courtaulds Text	301		6.4	11.4
33½	22½	Creighton	23½			
13½	6½	Dalymen	6½		14.4	
68½	40	Dawson	51½	- ½	8.7	7.5
167½	126	Denby Group	147½		3.9	10.9
267½	275½	Dewhirst	237½	- 2	2.8	14.4
37½	17	Devise Hdg	22½		8.9	6.2
27	11½	Drummond Group	18	+ ½	3.5	
130	104½	Eclipse Blinds	129½		3.5	11.3
42	29	Ethel	34	- ½	2.4	7.1
131½	35	FII Group	86½	- 1	5.8	6.6
34	24	Fasgel Trading	25		11.0	
10½	3½	Foster (J)	5½			
44½	35½	French	35½		5.5	
502½	341½	Gartutl	431		3.5	8.4
70	60	Haggas (J)	70		9.0	13.6
11½	2½	Hartstone Group	11		5.5	29.2
257½	216½	Hicking Pentecost	226½	- 1	4.7	
4	2½	Helen Crosse	2½			
13½	10½	Honeysuckle Grp#	14			
102	62½	Pointer Small	97½	- 1		
405	260	Inst	387½		1.6	17.3
25½	9½	Jacques Vert	11			
52½	37½	Jourdan Gp	42½	- ½	9.9	15.2
50	295	Jones Stroud	295		4.9	12.1
72½	47½	Jordan (T)	66½	- 1	2.8	
134	80	Kewmoss	118½			
245	200	Lambert Howarth	225		4.7	9.9
152	125	Lamont Hldgs†	128		12.5	9.0
122	72½	Leeds Group	77½	+ 1	11.7	5.4
17	5½	Leeke Tise	14½		12.9	6.2
16	12½	Lintbm	12½		3.8	10.7
90	68	Lyles (S)†	80		3.9	8.1
210	173	McBride	176½	- 2	5.1	12.9
138	103½	Maylom	124½		8.0	8.8
650	550	Osborne & Little	635	- 10	4.9	
4½	2½	PSI Group	3		3.4	
126	43½	Parkland Group	49½	- ½	10.6	
475	425	Paterson Zoch	460		4.8	10.2
525	375	Paterson Zch 'A'	410½	- 1	5.3	9.1
129	105½	Portland Group†	115½	+ 1½	4.0	16.5
225	185	Pifco	212½		3.8	10.8
200	185	Pifco 'A' Vtg	200		4.1	10.2
60½	37½	Pittards	43½		10.1	9.6
44½	26½	Readicut Intl	41½		7.8	
1360	935	**Reckitt Colmn†**	1184	- 6	2.0	21.9
620	430½	Retain	606		3.0	19.5
36	17½	Richards	22½		11.1	
225½	174½	Sape Dorlin	225	+ 1½	5.6	24.5
32½	26½	SEET	31			
45½	39½	Sherwood Group	39		11.5	10.4
110½	83½	Stalon†	96½	+ ½	5.5	11.6
285	260	Smallshaw	275		5.2	11.2
70	52½	Strzar	62½		11.1	7.9
52	22½	Stirling Group	48		6.8	
16½	6	Stoddard	7½	- 4	12.9	15.9
252½	125	Stoves	129½	- 1	5.9	8.3
238	211½	Swallowfield	216½	- 3½	4.6	10.3
206½	155	Tomkinsons	167½	- 2½	8.6	8.4
136	134	Usher (F)	136½		10.1	7.0
80	60	Victorian	72		6.1	6.7
153	117½	Vymura	142½		4.7	10.1
73	40	Walker Greenbr†	71½		6.5	11.4
105½	60	Wood Widget	88	- 2	1.9	24.8
97½	57½	Wiesum	83½		7.5	7.1
195	195	Wood (Arthur)	195		4.5	12.9
140	83½	Yorklyde	100		6.1	16.1

INSURANCE

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
4240¼	3250	Am Gen	4037½	+ 16½	2.3	
149½	105	Angerstein	149½		8.8	11.6
4343¼	3309¾	Aon Corpn	3884¾	+ 10¼	1.7	
65½	44	Bradstock	45		15.8	
1364	1102½	Britannic	1181	- 6½	3.6	8.0
1380	782	**CGU**	1099	- 6	3.0	22.2
167	129	CLM Insce	166	+ 2½	10.5	
277½	202½	Charles Taylor	267½	- 2	2.1	30.5
535½	237	Cox Insce†	506	15½	1.1	28.6
555	455	Dom & Gen	545		2.3	20.0
159	112	Euclidian	136½		13.7	16.9
431½	303	FBD	458½	- 9½	2.0	17.5
495	335	**GRE**	377	+ 14½	3.2	5.5
745	545½	Heath (CE)	645	- 13	1.6	12.7
261	165	Hiscox	257		1.6	31.4
357½	229	Independent	350	- 13½	1.2	17.5
602½	342½	Irish Life	521½	+ 1½	2.6	15.5
132½	151½	Jardine Lyd Th	179½		7.0	12.0
127	107	Kiln Capital	132		1.8	64.7
120½	103½	Lambert Fen	115½	- 1	9.1	8.2
785	532	**Legal & Gen**	640	- 19	2.5	16.0
1273½	1412½	Liberty Life	1412½	- 9½	2.6	14.0
238	145	Limit	219	- ½	3.6	15.3
637½	497½	Londn & Man	511	6½	6.0	21.0
5596¾	4321¼	Marsh McLn	5116¾	+ 40¼	2.4	
135	122	Mashcad	134		16.4	
27	23	New London Cap	24		8.9	12.3
552	355	**Norwich Union†**	437	+ 5	3.3	17.3
155½	102½	Ockham	155½	+ ½	3.6	17.9
110½	81½	Oriel	107		6.7	
138	117	Premium Trust	136		3.6	28.0
1000	654	**Prudential**	774	+ 21½	2.5	18.3
24½	17½	PWS	22		4.3	4.9
825	590	**Royal & Sun All**	648	+ 24	3.5	17.2
383	167½	St James Place	355½	- 3½	0.5	41.7
189½	130	Sedgwick	131	- 4	5.3	11.7
29	22	Stad Brash	27½	- ½	8.3	
645	434½	Sun Life & Pr	541	- 14	2.7	26.3
160	110	Syndicate Cap#	160		7.2	12.6
631	521½	Utd Assurance	584	- 14½	4.5	13.7
280½	147½	Wellington†	256½		3.6	10.8
173½	128½	Willis Corroon†	154		5.5	13.0
16	11½	Windsor	14½		5.2	
191½	146½	Wren	187½	- 1½	8.7	15.0

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
678	490	**3i†**	667½	+ 5½	1.9	38.9
65	47½	Aberdeen Emrg Ec	53½	+ 4½		
137½	98½	Aberdeen High Inc	132		7.3	19.6
133	84	Abrdn New Dawn	95	+ 7½	2.1	38.9
257	206½	Aberforth Smlr	241		3.7	35.9
159½	116	Aberforth Sm Wts	147	+ ½		
3086	2466	Alliance	3015	+ 43	2.4	46.2
726½	584	Anglo & Oseas	699	+ 10	1.9	62.9
74½	60	Acct Opps	61	+ 1	0.5	
67	50½	Baillie Gifford SN	54½	+ 3		
293	239½	Bankers	283½	+ 4½	2.1	46.0
118	85½	Baring Em Eu	97	+ 1½		
613½	468½	Baring Tribne	604½	+ 2½	1.7	66.9
142½	114½	Br Assets†	133½	+ 2½	4.6	24.9
122½	106	Br Empire Sec	119	+ 1½	1.1	64.5
61½	42½	Brazilian†	44	+ ½		
379½	313	Brunner	357	+ 1	2.3	56.0
110	74½	Campgrn Dem	88½		1.3	
1000	737½	Candover	880	2½	2.8	38.1
68½	53½	Central Euro Gwth	55½	+ ½		
523	364	Chart European	501½	+ 8½	1.5	
198	168	City Merch HYt	188	+ 2½	6.2	15.4
281	230	City Of Lon	265½	- 1½	3.1	36.7
77½	74½	Danae Inv Inc	75½		13.7	9.7
635	530	Derby Cap	611	+ 2½		
139½	127½	Derby Inc	135		18.1	4.2
242½	170½	Dres RCM Smb	241		1.3	
220½	174½	Dunedin Inc G	213	- 2½	3.5	33.7
467	335½	Dunedin Smlr†	462		2.8	39.2
228½	170	Dunedin Wwde	217½	+ 4½	1.1	
60½	40	Edin Dragon	44½	+ 3½		
29½	21	Edinburgh Inct	23	+ 1		
519	413½	Edinburgh (IT)	490	+ 4	2.9	33.8
105	81½	Edin Japan	86½	+ 4½		
530	424½	Edin US Tk	520	+ 5	0.9	
673	527	Electra Inv	661½	+ ½	1.8	46.8
189½	157	Eng & Scot	177	+ 2	2.4	38.4
29½	22½	Eur Cap	23			
605½	374	European Assets	563½	+ 7	0.8	
70½	40½	Fidelity Asian Val	45½	+ 4½		
398	277½	Fidelity Euro Val	350½	+ 4½	0.2	
32½	25	Fidelity Jap Val	27½	+ 1½		
177½	135½	Fidelity Spec Val	168		1.0	
280½	217½	Finsbury 'A'	280½	+ 2	1.7	76.4
223	173	Finsbury Gwth†	211½	+ ½	2.1	59.1
155½	120½	Fine Art Cale	121½	+ ½	2.5	54.8
18½	1½	Fine Art Wts	1½			
647½	513½	Fleming Amer	632	+ 6½	0.4	
64	34½	Fleming Asian	38½	+ 3½		
12½	5	Fleming Asian Wts	7	+ 1½		
64½	30½	Fleming Chinese	35½	+ 4½		
27½	10½	Fleming Ch Wts	15½	+ 4		
507½	401½	Fleming Claver	466½	+ ½	1.8	64.9
699½	471	Fleming Cont	632	+ 7	0.6	
134	99	Fleming Em Mkts	106	+ 4½	0.5	
392½	271	Fleming Ent	376	- 1½	1.8	56.0
411	307	Flem Grd Gth Ord	391½	+ 2	0.9	
162½	143½	Flem Grd Gth Pd	161½	½	10.1	
132½	103	Fleming Inc Cap	123½	+ ½	5.7	23.6
110½	105½	Fleming Ing Inc†	107		11.6	9.9
350½	246½	Fleming Ing Cap	332½	+ 2		
50½	35½	Fleming Indian	39½	+ 5½		
12½	4½	Fleming In Wts	6½	+ 1½		
167½	121	Fleming Japan	133	+ 10½		
478	364½	Fleming Merc	454	+ 1½	2.9	40.9
92	70½	Fleming Mid Res	71	+ ½	0.4	
435½	350½	Fleming Overs	404	+ 4½	1.4	
209½	148½	Fleming Smlr Co	199	+ ½	2.8	57.8
505½	371½	Fleming US Dscy	464½		0.3	
210½	168	Foreign & Col	195	- 2½	1.4	68.2
124½	97	F&C Inc Gwth†	114½	+ ½	4.0	29.5
107½	71½	F&C Emg Mkts	77½	+ 5½		
302½	185	F&C Enterprise	298½	+ 1½	1.6	64.6
543	361½	F&C Eurotst†	513	+ 6	0.6	
131	95	F&C Pacific	106½	+ 9½	2.2	55.6
182½	144½	F&C PEP†	175½		3.2	38.3
226	177	F&C Smaller	224½	+ ½	1.7	
179½	144½	F&C US Smh	165½	+ 3½		
68½	60½	Framlin Inct	67	+ ½	9.9	11.3
173½	109½	Framlin Cap	161½	+ 1		
295	133½	Framl Dual Cp	271	+ 4½		
63½	38½	Fulcrum Cap	59½	+ 1		
22½	12½	Fulcrum Inct	12½	½	64.6	1.2
195½	188	Fulcrum Zero	195			
335	210½	Gartmore Brit	335		3.4	
347½	242½	Gartmore Euro	333½	+ 6	0.5	
158	110	Gartmore Shad†	153½	+ ½	8.0	
482½	345½	Gmore Smh Cos	472		1.6	69.7
86½	52½	Geared Inc Ord	76	½	7.3	
60	51½	Geared Inc Inc	58½		9.5	
108	101	Geared Inc 0 Pf	106½	1		
103	59	Gov Asn Sm Cos	70½	+ 8½	1.0	
92½	65	Gov Emg Mks	70½	+ 4½	0.7	
215	151½	Govett Am Smb	201½	+ 5		
97½	91½	Govett High Inc	93½	+ 2½	7.5	16.1
108½	72	Govett Oseas	81	+ 6½	1.1	
479	379½	Govett Strategic	430	+ 4	2.0	46.3
35½	19½	Gresham House†	30½		1.5	2.3
147½	119	GT Inc Growth†	142	4½	3.0	31.3
180½	130	GT Japan	140½	+ 9½	0.4	
156½	114½	Gvn Ft Ex Inc†	150		6.9	
76	61	Henderson Am Cp	72	+ 1		
122½	115½	Henderson Am In	121½	+ ½	8.1	13.2
43½	29	Henderson Am Wt	40½	+ ½		
360	251½	Hend Elec Gen	348½	+ 3	1.4	
132½	84	Hend Far East	92½	+ 7½	9.2	13.1
580	452	Hend Gartmore#	570		1.7	71.5
173	151½	Hend High Inct	170½	+ 1	4.9	23.3
47½	30½	Hend Jap Smllr	34½	+ 1½		
300	213	Hend Smb	294½		1.7	70.9
626½	405	Hend Strata	614½	+ 1	0.1	
65½	44	Hend TR Pac	48½	+ 4	0.6	70.1
129½	86½	Herald Tech	110	- 3		
203	135½	Herald	196	+ 1	0.5	
130	105½	High Income Tt	129½	+ 2½	6.6	16.3
174½	140	H Gowth Sml	173	+ ½	2.7	45.1
196½	139½	ISS UK Smllr	193½	+ 1½	1.9	65.6
214½	180	Inv Cap	201	+ 2	3.6	30.3
97	63½	Int Biotech	65½	+ ½		
20	2½	Int Biotech Wts	4½			
59½	34½	INVESCO Asia	39	+ 4	2.1	47.9
212½	175½	INVESCO Eng Inct	207½	- ½	0.8	
36½	25½	INVESCO Jap Dsc	28½	+ 1½		
49½	25	INVESCO Korea	28	+ ½		
33½	22½	INVESCO Tokyo	24½	+ ½		
107½	83½	JF Fledg Jap	91½	+ 3½		
204½	135	J Fry Euro II	188½		3.7	
123½	65½	J Fry Util▼	120	+ ½	5.9	14.2
91½	79½	J Fry Utl Inct	89½		7.8	64.9
150	121½	Jupiter Eu Inc	147	+ 1	6.7	18.6
43½	19½	Jupiter Eu IncWt	39	+ ½		
105	91	Jupiter Grd Cap†	98		10.2	10.4
51½	44	Jupiter Grd Pfd	48½	+ ½		78.4
160½	135½	Jupiter Intl Grn	159½	+ 2	3.2	
872½	518	Jupiter Prims	787½	+ 37½	1.0	
104	73½	Kleinwort E Mkt	83½	+ 7½		
178½	164½	Klnwrt End	177½			
156	118	Klnwrt H Inct	144		8.7	14.6
201½	89	Korea-Euro	96½	- 50½	1.2	44.3
132	97	Latin American	98½	+ ½		
1289	1077½	Law Debenture	1235	+ 11½	2.9	34.3
121½	111½	Lde OE Opp	119	- 1		
161½	124½	Lloyds Sml Cap	158½			
22	16½	Lloyds Sm Dw	19½		38.2	4.4
178	143	Lloyds Sm Pfg	178	+ ½	3.1	
217½	173½	Lon St Lawrence	212		3.8	32.9
426½	341½	Lowland	426	+ 6	3.5	36.5
812½	797½	M&G 2nd Dual Cp#	800			
51½	50	M&G 2nd Dual Inc#	50			1.6
101	75½	M&G Inc Geared†	98½	+ ½	7.7	17.7
78½	54	M&G Inc Inv Tst Cp	76½	+ ½		
26½	21½	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	22½	+ ½		3.7
183½	150½	M&G Inc Packagd†	179½		4.2	32.1
80½	77½	M&G Inc Zero Div	80½	- ½		
70½	31	M&G Rec Cap	66½	+ ½		
95½	53½	M&G Rec Geared†	92½		8.0	
28	21	M&G Rec Inct	22			
206	160	M&G Rec Packgd†	201½		3.7	
114½	108½	M&G Rec Zero Div	113½	- ½		
236½	160½	M Currie Euro	217½	+ 2½	0.5	
84½	60	M Currie Japan	65	+ 4½		
125½	86	M Currie Pacif	93½	+ 5½	2.6	37.5
366½	292½	Majedie†	361½	+ 3	2.4	54.9
436½	355	Merchants	420½	+ 5	4.2	29.3
178	132	Mercury Euro Pvt	167½	+ 2½	3.0	40.0
98	50½	Mercury Em Wt	92	+ ½		
74½	57½	Mercury World	59½	+ 1½	1.7	64.8
800	677½	Monks Inv Tst	801	+ 11	1.5	
209½	180	Morg Gren Inct	193	+ 6	4.5	27.0
106½	80½	Morg Wts	96			
82	62	Morg Lon Amert	66½	+ 4	0.7	
32½	18½	Morg Wts	20½	+ 1½		
142½	110½	Murray Entl	137½	+ 1	2.8	47.1
29½	10	Murray Ent Wts	24			
71	49½	Murray Emg Eco	52½	+ 2½	1.3	64.4
11½	4½	Murray Em Ec Wt	5½	+ ½		
538	448	Murray Incmet	524½	+ 5	3.5	37.5
505	431½	Murray Intl	478½	+ 2½	3.7	31.7
213½	205½	Murray S/C DP	213			
395	270	Murray S/C Cap	375	+ 1		
64½	52½	Murray S/C Inct	53½		28.7	4.3
5150	4350	Murray S/C Unt	5050		3.0	40.2
434½	340	Murray Small	371½	+ 4	2.0	47.8
416	379½	Murray Vent	406		4.5	
289½	271½	Natwest Ent	286½		2.2	44.2
5½	2½	Newmarket	2½			
56½	33½	Pacific Assets	36	+ 2½	1.1	76.0
135½	83	Perpetual Euro	125	+ 2	0.4	
156½	135	Perp Inc Grt	139½		3.7	
37	26½	Perpetual Jap	30½	+ 3½		
424½	322½	Perpl UK Sm Co	421½		2.1	53.8
£200½	£168	Personal Assets	£198	+ 50	1.5	55.6
159	130½	Prolific Inc	147		3.6	31.5
369½	270	RIT Cap Ptnrt	353½	+ 5	0.2	
558½	516½	Robeco	539½	- ½	2.0	
566	524	Rolinco	546½	- 1	0.8	
59½	33½	Schrd Asia Pac	37½	+ 2½	1.7	
73	51	Schrod Emg Cnt	55½	+ ½		
165½	142	Schrod Inc Gwth	157	- ½	3.7	39.2
61½	43	Schrod Jap Gwth	47½	+ 3½		
282½	143½	Schrod Korea	143½	- ½		
93½	43½	Schrod Splt Cap	77½	+ 1½		
135	114½	Schrod Split Inct	127½		8.4	15.3
160	154½	Schrod Split Zero	156½	- ½		
179½	142	Schrod UK Grwth	164½	+ 2	2.6	44.5
190½	165½	Schrod Vent Intl	185	+ 1½	1.2	
385½	311	Scot	370	+ 2	2.2	58.5
233	193½	Scot Amercan†	228½	+ 4½	3.0	29.3
144½	91½	Scot Asian	103	- 9		
140½	110½	Scot Eastern	134½	+ 1	1.9	52.5
398½	316½	Scot Mort	372½	+ ½	1.8	62.0
105½	100½	Scot Natl 1st	104½	+ ½	11.7	10.9
153	119½	Scot Value†	146	+ 1½	1.2	
2755	2168½	Second Alliance	2685	+ 20	2.5	50.3
133½	112½	Secs Tst of Scot†	125	+ 2½	3.9	30.7
207	149½	Shires Smlr†	204		3.8	32.3
183½	133½	Smaller Cos	179½		2.5	64.3
399	353	St Andrew Inv	396		3.2	38.8
607½	484	Temple Bar	595	+ 7½	3.1	30.2
103½	82½	Throgmorton	98½		2.0	43.5
128½	94	Tplton Emg Mkt	102½	+ 6½	1.3	61.0
266	167½	TR Euro Growth	250½	+ 5½	0.4	
50½	44½	TR Property	48		2.8	33.7
412½	374	TR Tech Invt#	430		11.5	32.0
364	273	Turkey Trust#	336½			
169½	140½	Undervalued Astt	163½		1.9	40.9
167	152	Value Inc Tst	164½		3.7	30.4
138½	102½	Value Realt	131½	+ ½	1.1	
56	40½	Warrants & Val	54½	+ ½		
110½	87½	Wigmore†	105	+ 2½	0.8	
396	310½	Witan	373½	+ 2½	2.3	45.1
74½	65½	Yeoman Inc	66			4.2



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LEISURE & HOTELS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
29½	11	ABI Leis#	13½		15.1	
543½	405½	Airtours†	464	- 2	1.8	24.4
33	23½	Ald Leis	30		4.2	9.6
21	16	Arena Leis	19½			
157½	115	BS Group†	142½		4.4	
135	110	Baldwin	135		3.7	11.0
120	82	Bluebird Toys	114½		10.4	10.5
800	605	Boosey Hwks†	630		2.0	25.1
35½	27½	Burtndene	31½	- ½	9.2	7.3
159½	79	Capital Corpn	81½	+ 2½	7.9	7.1
104½	55	Claviden	91½		2.7	20.8
109½	70½	Clubhaus	97½	+ 1		25.9
305	183	ENIC	187½		0.3	
318	213	Eurocamp	277	2	5.4	9.6
107½	67	Euro Disney	107½			
146½	120½	Euro Leisure	145		3.7	9.2
173½	100	First Choice	152½		2.3	53.1
437½	269½	First Leisure	420½	- 4	2.7	23.9
159½	110½	Friendly Hotelst	153	+ 8	4.8	13.7
1217	837	**Granada**	1110	8	1.7	20.9
51½	36½	Hi-Tec Sports	44½	+ ½	5.6	8.6
283	207½	Holmes Place	255	- 4½	1.5	30.6
282½	165½	Hornby	232½		3.5	11.3
373	309	Hozelock	331		4.3	18.9
200	148	James Hotels	192½	1	3.0	11.2
569½	451½	Jarvis Hotel	530½	- ½	1.5	25.4
37½	24½	Kunick†	35½	- ½	3.9	16.3
370	250	**Ladbroke**	305	- 10½	2.7	24.4
328½	144	London Clubs	144	- 8½	6.2	
243½	182½	Macdonald Hts	227½		2.8	
161½	123½	Man Utd	155	+ 1½	1.3	74.9
59½	34½	Mandarin Orntl†	34½		6.1	7.4
620½	418½	Millennium & Cop	593½		1.8	22.9
1½	1½	Millwall Hldgs	1			
102½	74½	Newcastle Utd	79		2.5	8.5
300	200½	Northant	227	+ 9	2.2	27.8
76½	52½	Pncrn Leisure	54		15.8	3.7
30	19½	Queensborough†	28		1.8	10.9
42	12½	Queens Moat	42	+ 1½		9.2
421	283½	**Rank Grp**	342	- 11	6.6	13.3
49	38½	Regal Hotel	41½		3.8	8.0
84½	50½	Ryan Hotels (E)	78½		3.2	
1900	1175	Savoy Hotel 'A'	1575		1.7	25.8
51½	27½	Sheffield United	29	+ ½		
252½	232½	Sincan (Wm)	235		4.8	11.4
80½	63½	Southampton	68½		1.8	
143½	91	Stakis	136	- ½	2.5	17.9
292	250½	Stanley Leisure	298		1.8	21.0
10	4	Tencom	6½	- ½		78.4
346	346	Tanjong#	346			
250½	157	Thistle Hotels	238½	2½	2.2	19.4
200	173	Thomson Travel	173½	- 1½	2.0	21.1
76½	59½	Tottenham Hot	67½			
212½	135½	Vardon	202½	+ 4	1.5	24.5
412½	302½	Wembley	408½		0.9	10.2
162½	120	Zetters Gp	151	½	8.7	6.8

MEDIA

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
443	324	Abbott Mead	442½		1.8	33.9
179½	145½	Adscene	160½	- 2	6.6	16.8
109½	64½	Aegis Grp†	95½	½	0.7	26.2
154	70	Aspen Grp	92½	+ 1	3.4	
195	152½	Atlantic Telecom	155	1½		
79½	50½	BBB Design#	79½			
232	185	Barbour Index	231		6.5	26.4
3½	0½	Bebcale	1			
400	320	Black (A&C)†	385		4.5	15.3
370½	267½	Border TV	346½	- 3½	2.5	26.7
515	410	Bristol	510		4.3	12.2
310½	129½	Brit Allcott	279		0.9	40.1
594	333	**BSkyB**	430	+ 1½	1.7	27.4
747½	497	Capital Radio†	672	+ 2	2.6	21.0
562	408	**Carlton Comm**	545	- 6	3.0	16.1
374½	145	Character Grp†	332½	+ 6	1.8	13.9
63	48	Chime Comms†	61		3.9	16.2
777½	602½	Chrysalis	767		0.4	
92½	77	City of Lon	87½		9.3	
106½	83½	Copyright Proms	106			53.8
137	88	Cordiant Comms†	129½	- ½	0.9	
188½	143½	Creative Publ	181½		4.0	
3184½	3084½	Daily Mail†	2840½		1.1	27.0
3250	2000	Daily Mail 'A'	3668½	+ 59½	1.1	25.4
206½	129½	Dialog	147½			
287	203	Dorling Kind	243½		2.3	67.3
485	265½	Dudley Jenkns	455	- 2½	1.4	32.5
1298	905	**EMAP†**	1242½	+ 5	1.5	27.2
685	420	**EMI**	527½		3.1	26.1
1117½	833½	Elsevier	905	+ 16½	2.8	71.3
2562½	1495	Euromoney Pbl	2362½	+ 2½	2.8	23.8
69	50½	Fitch	68½		1.3	12.2
555	468	Flextech	500	- 8		
245	155½	GWR Gp	245	+ 5½	1.7	
395	212½	Grantree Group	212½		4.2	10.7
55½	34½	Goodhead	47½	- ½	1.3	15.6
540	290	HIT Entert	540		0.2	68.3
297½	252½	Haynes Pub	282½		5.0	11.8
14½	9½	Highbury Hse	12½	- ½		
280	204	Hodder H'line	265		3.4	16.8
580	400	Home Counts	560		1.3	34.9
537	365	IBC	525	- 3½	2.5	17.3
93½	70½	ITE Group	78½	+ 3		
30½	18½	Incepta†	28		1.6	12.4
397½	227½	Independent	372½	- 5	2.1	26.1
56½	40½	Ind Public Pal	49		4.2	10.2
162	122	Intereurope	123½		4.8	9.0
250	156½	Johnston Press	235½	- 1½	1.6	18.4
360½	329	LLP Group	346	+ 1	1.7	28.2
60	30	Lowe	57		2.2	12.2
472½	305	Maiden	436½	+ 3	1.7	24.1
38½	19	Mediakey	30	+ 1	7.5	7.5
1325	940	Metal Bulletin	1320		2.2	33.3
249	170	Mirror Gp	211½	+ ½	3.0	15.7
1150	713	More Gp	1104		1.9	23.3
455½	333	News Corp	397½	+ 13	0.3	18.5
377	282½	News Corp Prf	337½	- 12½	0.8	
327½	252½	Newsquest	313½	- 7½	2.2	17.6
15½	11½	Osprey Comms	13			
1250	705	**Pearson**	1102	+ 13½	2.2	31.6
56½	34½	Phonelink	43½			
1125	267½	Portsmth Sund	1125	+ 7½	2.0	
115½	51½	Quarto	100		5.6	13.6
730	448½	**Reed Intl**	541	- 3	3.4	26.4
770	595	**Reuters**	709	+ 17	2.3	26.4
185	160½	Saatchi	154½	- ½	1.0	
807	657	Scot Med	605		3.5	17.9
536	375	Scottish Radio	529	+ 1½	2.4	19.3
12½	6½	Sleepy Kids	11½	+ 1	0.9	
560	448	Southnews	534	+ 1½	2.3	
25½	15½	Sterling Pub	16½		2.6	6.5
145½	89½	Taylor Nelson†	123	- 7½	3.0	38.2
370	204	Telewest Co	263½		1.8	18.6
369½	163½	Tempus Gp	255		1.3	27.6
1920	1549½	Thomson Corp	1717½	+ 40½	2.8	36.3
573	483	Trinity	523½		3.2	16.6
245	213	Ulster TV	204		3.5	15.9
963	630	**United News†**	778½	+ 1½	2.7	19.2
115½	74	VCI	79½		12.4	5.9
127½	75½	VTR	112½		5.1	8.4
438½	240	WPP†	387½	- 1½	0.5	24.7
202½	123½	Wilmington†	177½	- 3½	1.0	31.9

MINING

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3440¾	2295¼	Ang Am Coal	2853¼	- 18½	5.5	7.0
3553¼	1975	Ang Am	2143½	- 16½	3.7	
3268½	2063½	Ang Am Gold	2153½	- 18½	6.2	
971½	643½	Anglo Am Plat	743½	+ 37½	3.3	27.4
3362½	2049½	Anglogold	2462½	- 16½	8.1	12.3
22½	14½	Anglo Pac Grp	14½			
31½	22	Arcon Intl	22			
645½	411½	Ashanti	489½	+ 21	2.5	16.1
66½	31½	Asiatica	32½	+ ½	4.5	
112	47	Avocet	50½			
197½	122½	Billiton	137½	+ 10½	4.4	11.4
35	31½	Bisichi	32	- 1½	3.6	10.5
20½	13	Bougainville	13½	+ ½		
299½	215½	Central Pacific	217½	+ 2½		
50	21½	Cons Murchison	26	- ½		0.8
1609½	1062½	De Beers	1108½	- 9½	4.9	6.8
426½	305½	Driefontein	327½	+ 22½	3.6	11.0
235½	88	Durban	144	+ 8½		
92½	57½	E Rand Gold	71	+ 3½	22.2	4.5
18½	10½	E Rand Prop	13			22.1
283	128½	Elandsrand	208½	+ 7	7.8	12.8
223½	219½	Eng China Cl	228	+ 1	7.1	10.6
168½	92	Evander	110	+ 7½	13.3	
385½	131	FS Cons	290½	+ 11	12.2	8.2
7½	7½	FS Dev	2½			
1103½	706½	GFSA	716½	+ 9½	3.6	15.3
148½	85½	Gencor	98½	+ 6	3.7	6.7
145½	98½	Gold Fields Prop	107½	- ½	6.8	12.2
41	14½	Greenwich R 'A'	30	+ ½		
356½	112½	Harmony	242½	+ 12½		7.6
730½	443½	Impala Plat	553½	- 3½	2.9	11.7
13½	9½	Kenmare Res	10			
33½	14	Nelson	19½	+ ½		
369	239½	Lonrho	295	- 5½	8.1	13.5
11½	4½	Meekatharra	4½	+ ½		
42	26½	MIM	28½	+ 2	3.2	
1175	795½	Minorco	800	+ 3½	4.8	9.9
105	65	Monteagle	90		5.4	
73½	47½	Normandy	47½	- ½	4.6	10.8
177½	114½	North	121½	+ 7	3.9	18.2
60	27½	Pechiney Tin	27½			
111	48½	RGC	50½	+ 2	7.2	2.8
170	80	RJB	151	+ 8	16.6	1.9
29½	22½	Rockwood†	22½		15.3	5.8
196½	77½	Randfontein	143½	+ 12½	3.9	15.9
121½	77½	Reunion Mng	77½			
898	641	**Rio Tinto**	714	+ 34	4.5	13.4
871	660½	Rio Tinto Ltd	684½	+ 24½	3.7	17.8
8½	3½	St Barbara	3½	+ ½		
191	128	St Helena	141	- 1½	21.6	2.1
192½	138½	Sons Gwalia	148½	+ 7½	6.4	11.2
130½	90½	Strem Pacific	93½	+ 2½		
1328½	793½	Southvaal	1000	+ 34½	11.2	8.9
228½	162½	WMC	170½	+ 8	2.6	22.8
27	12	Wankie Col Z	13½	- ½	5.1	
67½	34½	Water Hall	34½	- 1½		
443	381½	Watts Blake	405		5.4	12.1
1759½	975	Western Deep	1331½	+ 46½	5.8	
149	109½	Zambia Copper	118½	- 1		

OIL & GAS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
221½	155½	Abbot Group	217		1.5	78.0
3½	1½	Alliance Res#	3½			
64½	51½	Ameria	51½			
77	50½	Aus Oil & Gas	53½	+ 3½	2.7	18.2
27½	9½	Aviva Pet	10			
430	298½	Br Borneo	351	- 8½	1.0	62.9
391	265	**BG†**	329	+ 6	3.0	31.3
972	708½	**Br Petroleum†**	875	+ 12	3.2	22.5
1½	0½	Bula Resources	1½	+ ½		
1340	835	Burmah Castrl	1190	5	3.4	17.5
496½	290½	Cairn Energy	318½	+ 1		57.6
119	83	**Centrica**	100½	+ ½		
14½	6½	Coplex Res	6½			
22½	16	Dana Pet	17½	+ ½		
72½	41½	Dragon Oil	45			
28½	19	Edin Oil & Gs	21½	+ ½	1.7	15.6
10	5½	Emerald Energy	7½	+ ½		
697½	510	**Enterprise**	543½	+ 7½	4.0	38.4
14½	9	Fortune	9			34.4
294½	231	Hardy Oil▲	231½	- 2½	0.5	48.8
47½	31½	JKX Oil & Gas	31½			
430	300½	KBC Adv Tech	403½		1.0	35.7
305	240	**LASMO**	243½	- 2½	0.9	65.4
42½	35½	Lasmo Units	40		21.1	
83	56½	Monument	63			22.5
3118½	2612½	Norsk Hydro	2646½	+ 25	2.3	15.9
133½	90	Oil Search	95½	+ 5½		
58½	33½	Petroz	34½	+ 1		
54½	37	Premier	46½	+ 1	1.5	9.9
58	28½	Pittencrieff Rs	29			
429½	331	Ranger	391	- 11½	4.9	7.0
3616¾	3031¼	Royal Dtch Ft	3300	+ 31½	2.9	25.0
5143½	3990½	Schlumberger	4400	+ 128½	1.0	
499½	335	**Shell**	420	- 2	3.4	23.6
370½	263½	SOCO Intl	276½			29.7
3127½	5643½	Total	7271½	+ 87½	1.8	
332½	207½	XCL	207½	- 12½		

OTHER FINANCIAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
134	87½	Aberdeen Asset	121½	+ ½	4.1	45.9
775	467	**AMVESCAP†**	632	+ 2½	1.1	29.0
225½	120½	BWD	211½	- 4½	4.4	19.1
55½	42½	Berry Brn Nbt†	44½		5.6	
294	240	Bolton Inv	267½		2.8	30.6
443	245½	Brewin Dolphin	423	+ 1	2.6	24.9
938	725	Caledonia	936½		1.0	10.0
4500	2800	Camellia†	4400		1.1	29.1
683	398½	Carnes	581½	- 1½	2.4	17.2
57½	37½	Christie	52½	+ 1	1.9	24.3
933	526½	Close Bros	837½	- 10	5.3	14.1
612	432	EFM	588½		4.3	
32½	20	Exco	22		2.1	22.2
42½	19½	Fishers Intl	39½		4.5	18.1
219½	197	Friends Ivory Sime	203½	+ 1½	4.7	19.2
447½	332	Gerrard	427½		1.8	64.8
194	154½	Hambros	178½		2.6	
272½	149½	Hitachi Credt	270½		2.9	
195	145	Investment Co.	195		8.5	7.8
177½	102½	Jardine Strat	102½	- 1½	3.2	
164½	111½	Johnson Fry	155		4.1	26.7
630	570	Leopold J	610		4.0	24.3
619½	462½	Liberty Intl	556	+ 4½	4.7	11.0
476½	316	Lon Forfaitng	328½	+ 11	7.1	8.8
260½	169½	London Pacific	246	- 5	3.2	23.0
160	110½	Lon Scot Bk	136½	- 4	4.9	11.7
306½	232½	Man ED & F	305		3.0	26.2
1945	1407½	M & G†	1755	- 15	1.5	9.4
353	182½	Paragon	338½	- 2	2.1	25.7
4537½	2682½	Perpetual†	4187½	- 27½	2.7	36.2
1096	785	Provident	945	- 10	2.8	25.1
647½	400	Rathbone Bs	625	- 10	2.0	12.7
68½	54½	Rea Brothers	63½		3.4	14.1
65	49½	Rutland Tst	63½		7.0	23.3
107½	77	SEC Group†	90½		8.1	8.7
392	292	S & U†	294	- 1	1.3	28.5
2025	1153½	**Schroders▼**	1660	- 7	1.3	24.9
1775	1016½	Schroders N/V▼	1452	- 48	3.6	16.1
795	610	Secure Tst	792½		4.0	12.2
182½	136½	Singer & Fried	167½	- 1		
67½	48½	Towry Law	64½	- 1		
5½	3½	Trio Hldgs	5½			
81½	61½	Unum	80½			
88	46½	Versailles Grp†	80½	+ 1½	0.7	48.4
437½	397½	Wintrust	432½		4.1	17.5

PHARMACEUTICALS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
150	37	Brit Biotech	39½	- ½		
300	240	Cantab Pharms	260			
387½	272½	Celltech	326½	- 6		
356½	220	Chiroscience	290	- ½		
207	70	Core Group	75			
205	106	Cortecs	111½			
1983	1650	**Glaxo Well**	1775	+ 68	2.2	38.6
135	75	ML Laboratories	82½	+ 1		
185	140	Medeva	178½	+ 5½	3.1	8.3
260	165	Oxford Molecular	190			
310	252	Peptide Thera	283½	- 1½		
114½	47½	Phytopharm	91½	- 5		
513½	194½	Powderject	438			
89½	42	Proteus Intl▲	45½			
72	59	Ransom (Wm)	61		5.3	12.3
181½	124½	Quadrant Health	146½			
394½	260	Scotia	331	+ 2½		
446½	385½	Shire Pharms	406½	+ ½		
103½	47½	SkyePharma	72½			
888	618	**SmithKline†**	735½	+ 11½	1.5	35.6
223	145	Therp Anti Inc	149			
653½	357½	Vanguard	365			
182	45	Vanguard Wts	64			
245	140	Xenova	150	+ 5		
2850	2114	**Zeneca**	2548	+ 39	1.9	33.1

PRINTING & PAPER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
94	82	AG Holdings†	88½		8.8	13.1
645	520	APH†	617½	3½	2.5	16.7
142	68½	Aap Hold	109½	- 3		
255	145½	Arjo Wiggins	222	- 6	3.6	11.9
468½	438½	Bemrose	442½		4.6	11.7
193½	144½	Blagden†	168	- ½	2.1	10.8
3571¼	2578½	Bowater Inc	2946½	+ 46½		
315½	233½	Boxmore Intl	261½		1.6	16.2
537	435	Br Polythene	445		5.6	10.8
348½	219½	Bunzl†	302½	- 10½	2.2	17.3
168½	118½	Capital Inds	151½	+ 4	5.0	15.6
261½	201½	Cropper (James)	202½	- 2½	3.1	
399	366½	De La Rue†	311½	- 1	4.5	10.1
274½	252½	Dolphin Pack	265		3.9	12.5
105	70	Ferguson Intl	85	- 5	6.6	
197½	145½	Flodor	156½	- 2	3.3	16.3
90½	56½	Inveresk	71½	+ 1	10.1	10.6
239½	185½	Jarvis Porter	190½		5.3	
21	17½	LIBERfabrica	18		3.8	7.6
430	284	Low & Bonar	402½	- 3	4.1	13.5
25½	18½	Lowe (Robert)	20½	+ ½	2.4	7.5
86½	65½	MY Holdings	83½		4.1	11.2
177½	132½	Macfarlane	138	- 1	4.1	11.8
347½	213½	Photobition	311	+ 5	0.6	51.6
187½	140½	Plysu†	178½		5.9	
34	25	Porter Chadbrn	31	- 1	3.7	
330½	239	REXAM†	263	- 14½	7.3	10.7
547½	485	St Ives Gp	533½	+ 1½	2.8	16.0
410	327½	Sappi	251½	- 1½	3.1	
68½	20	Security & General	32	+ 5		
122½	92½	Sidlaw†	114		2.7	13.1
253½	165½	Smith David	210½	- 7	4.8	13.1
240	156	Smurfit (Jeff)	190	- 5	2.4	
168	105	Sonic	116		3.6	11.2
186½	133½	Tinsley Robor	181½	+ 3	2.1	20.2
43½	16	Waco	34½			
307½	247½	Waddington	301	- 5½	4.9	11.5
347½	268	Watmough	347		3.8	17.8
330½	223	Wyndeham	296	- 5½	2.7	15.3

PROPERTY

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
116½	91	Allied Lon†	99	- ½	5.1	7.2
195	155½	Azdat	190		2.0	25.2
36½	28½	Ashquay Gp	34	+ ½	0.7	42.0
180½	135½	Ashtenne Hldgs	167½		3.7	35.8
278½	243½	Benchmark	260½	- 2	2.2	25.2
288½	253½	Bilton†	273½		5.0	20.0
177½	149	Birdy	167½	- 1½	6.5	11.2
5½	3	Bolton Gp	3½			
64	53½	Bourne End†	58½		2.6	79.7
322½	263½	Bradford	264	- 4½	4.4	17.4
825	600	**Br Land†**	646	- 1	1.8	35.5
255	213	Brixton	244½	+ ½	4.8	19.8
132	100	Burford	110½		2.6	38.4
149	132	CLS Hldgs	148½		4.8	17.8
318½	246½	Cap & Regal	287½		1.5	38.0
460	401½	Cap Shop Ctrs	409½		2.8	36.7
355½	263½	Cardiff Prop	348½	+ 2	1.2	49.0
19	9½	Carlisle	18½	+ ½		76.4
5½	7½	Calley Intl	7½			
418½	318½	Chelsfield	318½	- 5½	1.3	37.4
687½	580	Chesterfield	612½		2.8	
37	21½	Chesterton Int	23½	- 1		
186½	147½	City North	151½		1.8	44.3
53½	32½	City Site Ests	33½			26.8
107	90	Cleveland Tst†	92	+ 1	8.4	17.1
99½	82½	CNC Propst	88½		4.7	9.2
260½	185½	Compco	259		2.0	21.6
1710	1605	Daejan	1710		3.0	16.4
21	10½	Dares Estates	11½			
126½	95½	Debenham Twsn	105½	+ 2	3.3	12.4
163½	69½	Delancey Ests	116½		1.7	23.8
232½	192½	Dencora†	232½		2.6	14.4
598	562½	Derwent Hldgs	571		1.5	33.5
355	283½	Development Sect	310		1.2	
260½	172½	Edge Properties	248½			26.6
430	410	Estates Agency	425		5.4	19.3
85	75½	Estates Gen	77½		1.3	20.0
176½	138½	Evans Of Leeds†	173		2.7	23.5
42½	36½	Fletcher King	40		6.2	13.2
71½	61½	Folkes Group†	69½		3.8	6.8
71½	57½	Folkes Group nvt	70		3.7	6.8
540	461	Frogmore	484	+ ½	5.2	12.7
19	14½	Golden Land Inv	18			
370	320	Grainger	322½	+ 2½	2.9	
206	237½	Gr Portland†	260	+ 1½	4.3	33.1
200½	159	Grantchester†	177	+ 1½	1.0	51.6
252½	214½	Greycoat†	243	- 1	0.8	39.0
152	104½	Hambro Cntryw	136½	+ ½	2.7	8.8
537½	465½	Hammerson	510	- 1½	2.9	30.0
33½	24	Hampton Trust	24½	- ½		
682½	555	Hascal Bart	680		1.7	
50	44½	Hemingway†	45	- ½	1.7	18.7
130½	69½	HK Land†	77½	+ 5	9.3	8.3
345	300	Jermyn	342½		2.2	
183½	94	LSH†	172½		3.3	11.1
113½	84½	Lands Imp	106½		5.6	
1190	827½	**Land Secs†**	934	- 5	3.7	25.2
38½	31	Lon & Assoct	33½	- ½	3.4	14.0
139½	118½	Lon Merch Sec	134½		4.6	12.4
650	509½	MEPC†	561	- 4	3.3	22.5
119½	93½	MWB Group	118½	+ 1	4.0	
152	132	McKay Secs	144½		2.9	30.4
89½	65½	Monrade Mre	87½		3.2	7.9
368	278	Milner Est	352½		2.5	16.9
245½	202½	Minerva	241½		0.8	
36½	25	Moorfield Est	36		1.9	40.6
1900	1681½	Mountview	1800	+ 50	3.4	
169	156½	Muckow (A&J)†	157½		5.7	17.5
49	31	OEM	42	- 1		
74½	52½	ORB	59½		5.9	
41½	31½	Olives Propt	40		1.9	24.9
727½	635	Peel	718½	- 2½	1.4	
353	277	Pillar Prop	351		2.1	65.0
13½	7½	Probus Estates	8½	- ½		
204½	187½	Quintain	187½	- 6	3.2	
29½	24	Raglan	28½		6.0	
36	25	Regalian	29½		5.5	
202½	157½	Rugby Est	170		1.9	15.3
81½	67½	St Modwen Prp	76		4.9	9.3
73	59	Saville Gdn	71½	-	5.3	27.0
149	111½	Savills	145		3.2	10.1
113	92	Scot Met	110		3.6	19.4
246	217	Shaftesbury†	236	- 2	1.2	55.2
414½	342½	Slough Estates	380	- 3	2.9	24.2
287½	242½	Smart (J)	272½		4.6	10.1
124½	93	TBI	122½	+ 3½	2.0	40.2
203½	176½	Tops Ests	201½		1.6	43.6
118	102	Town Centre	105		4.6	13.2
203½	199½	Trafford Park	201½	+ 3	2.5	22.0
103½	87½	UK Land	98½	+ 1	3.8	13.4
278½	251½	Warnford	271½		6.1	17.7
263	255	Wardtool	353		3.8	16.0
110½	92½	Warnet▲	96	+ 2½		44.3
450½	345½	Workspace Grp	445½	- 1	4.3	16.4

RETAILERS, FOOD

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
227½	173	**ASDA Group**	193½	- 1	2.0	18.2
78½	56	Budgens	74½		2.4	15.2
60½	55½	Dairy Farm Intl	60	- 1½	6.0	11.1
212½	157	Farepak	180		3.6	12.9
43½	35½	Fitzwilton	41½		5.9	
184	95	Fyffes	154	- 4	1.7	17.9
2637½	1995	Greggs	2562½		1.8	21.2
261	119	Iceland Group	217½	- 8½	3.1	14.7
296½	227½	Morrison (W)	293½	- ½	0.0	23.5
69	38	Park Foods	54½		7.1	
402	330	**Safeway†**	373	+ 7	4.7	15.7
567	370	**Sainsbury Jt**	508	+ 18½	3.4	21.1
403½	207½	Somerfield	353	- ½	3.8	12.1
321½	194½	T & S Stores	309½		3.4	16.6
620	485	**Tesco†**	570	- 18½	2.5	22.1
293½	256½	Thorntons	269½		2.8	21.3
626	505	Watson& Philip	618½		3.8	17.3

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
303½	230½	Alexon	250½			10.3
266	192½	Alders	266½	- ½	5.2	10.0
180	86	Allied Carpets	86	- 1½	11.3	6.7
508	361½	Arcadia Group*	444½		3.0	15.7
683	390	Argos†	633		3.6	20.5
41½	19½	Ashley (Laura)	30			
216½	164½	Austin Reed†	197½		4.7	11.6
172½	150½	Beale	157½		3.8	15.8
193½	157	Beattie (J)†	186½		6.5	12.2
155½	119½	Bentalls	130		3.7	6.6
498½	336½	Blacks Leis	353½	+ 2	2.0	
146	109	Body Shop†	131½		5.3	11.1
1055	602	**Boots†**	1000	- 16	2.8	23.2
61	30½	Brown & Jackson	54	+ 5		14.5
460	342½	Brown (N)†	342½	- 1½	2.7	17.7
505	306½	Carpetright	338½	+ 1½	7.8	11.2
394	227	Chocolates Intl	391½		1.7	30.4
432½	369	Church	370	+ 1	5.7	10.4
140½	95½	Clinton Cards	140		2.7	14.6
272½	189½	Country Gdns†	234½		1.0	17.1
432½	332½	Courts Furnish	402½	+ 17½	1.3	14.9
587½	229	DFS Furniture†	229½		7.2	9.3
433	339½	Debenhams†	378½	+ 3	1.3	16.3
628	458	**Dixons Grp**	531	- 6½	2.6	16.0
99½	45½	Elec Boutique	95½	+ ½		29.8
4½	3	ERA Gp	4			
70½	45½	Essex Furn	46½		10.3	10.7
209	145	Falkland Isls	167½			18.2
218½	162½	Fine Art Devt	202½		7.2	15.8
356½	303½	Fired Earth	350		1.2	21.7
567½	445½	Flying Flw Uts	553½	+ 2	1.7	
137½	95½	Formminster	106½	- 2	4.0	9.0
465	355	French Connt	430		1.8	14.8
45½	34½	Gevest	39½		3.6	24.6
333½	217½	Goldsmiths Grp	320		3.1	15.6
147	125½	Grampian Hdg	130½	- 3	7.2	12.1
918	700	**GUS**	865	- 9½	2.7	22.5
297½	220½	Hamleys	238½	- 1	5.8	10.8
116½	75	Hampden Grp	102½		3.5	8.9
343½	269½	Harveys Furn	270	- 1	3.2	28.0
221½	144½	Hse of Fraser†	187	+ 1	3.7	28.7
171½	117½	Hughes (TJ)	166	- ½	2.6	16.1
823½	489	JJB Sports†	577½	- 10	1.5	22.4
1301	709½	**Kingfisher†**	1015	- 10	2.8	18.4
355	250	Liberty	272½		1.2	
54½	25½	Limelight	51½	- 1½		
141	75	MFI	81	+ 2	7.6	8.7
654	489	**Marks Spencer†**	560	+ 27	3.2	19.2
57	35½	Merchant Retail	46½	+ 1½	1.3	19.4
291½	216½	Moss Bros	251½		3.0	16.1
860	477	**Next†**	521	- 2½	4.3	13.7
33½	24½	Olbner (G)	28½	- 1		
512½	382½	Oriflame Intl	455		4.9	14.5
65	36½	Partners	38½		5.0	
94½	79½	Partridge Fine	88½	- 2	7.1	7.7
39½	25½	QS Hldgs	26½			
320	250	Rosebys	252½		5.8	10.5
117½	85½	Savr Group†	111½	+ ½	8.0	12.1
66½	46½	Sears†	62½	+ ½	6.3	
52½	29	Signet Group	46½	-		10.2
587½	389½	Smith WH	547½	+ ½	3.5	
1310	1050	Sotheby's	1290		1.9	
394	216	Storehouse†	268	- 3	4.2	12.5
92	58	Stylo	59½		10.6	
237½	140½	Thorn	220	+ 10½	7.9	12.5
127½	69½	Tie Rack	89½	- ½	2.8	
3½	2½	Upton & South	3			29.0
356½	261½	Wickes	347½		0.7	57.6
373½	280½	Wyevale	338½		2.5	21.7

SUPPORT SERVICES

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
866	535	AEA Tech	650		1.3	40.4
350	272½	Abacus Recruit	292½	- 2½	0.6	28.1
206½	119	Acorn	119			
226½	152½	Aggreko	208½		2.3	27.9
122	68	Alpha Airport	109	- ½	6.1	13.4
53	32½	Alphameric	38	- 1		
79	47	Amec Grp	67½	+ ½		
565	362½	Atkins WS	529		1.9	
214½	160	BMB Res	184	- 1	5.2	11.1
790	507½	BPP	755		2.6	26.6
816	637½	BTG	780	+ 29	0.1	
48½	17½	Br Thornton	45	+ 1		
132½	79½	Brooks Service	129½		3.9	13.9
957½	568½	Business Post	837½	- 7½	2.2	
2000	758½	CMG	1797½	+ 37½	0.3	
493	335	CRT Gp	485½		1.1	67.5
972½	812½	Card Grpt	940		1.6	11.8
551½	311½	Capita Group	518½		0.5	
12½	6½	Chemex	9½	+ ½	2.7	15.1
262	212½	Corp Services	247	- 13	3.0	18.1
37½	21½	Coutts Cosltgt	31½		0.4	
649	317½	DCS Gp	620	+ 1	0.5	41.5
352½	235	Danka Bs Sys	266	- 1½	1.5	13.6
459½	302	Davis Service	422½	- 1	3.4	23.1
830	658	Delphi	662½	- 2½	1.4	23.3
1190	682½	Diagonal	1172½		0.3	
27½	19	Eurocopy	20½		12.2	4.1
100½	51½	EW Fact	100½		2.5	18.6
102½	51	El Data Prc	98½	+ 1	2.8	17.1
1732½	927½	FI Group	1600		0.5	
578	409	Gardian	544	- 5		
455	337	Harvey Nash	410		1.4	30.8
1155	773	Hays	1053½	+ ½	1.2	36.6
58	51½	High-PointRnd	55			
325½	255½	Hogg Robinson	322½		3.9	15.0
1257½	515	JBA Hldgs†	590		1.1	56.3
330	232½	Johnson Srvce	306½	+ ½	5.1	11.7
69½	40½	Kalamazoo	60½		8.9	
895	570	Kewill Sys	830	7½	1.5	19.9
24½	13½	Laser-Scan	19			
551	317½	Lavendon	523½		0.9	34.0
1897½	1147½	Logica	1867½	+ 77½	0.7	53.6
806½	505	Lomen	752½	+ 1½	1.2	46.8
235½	130½	Lyon Group†	221	- 4	1.2	28.1
96½	42½	MDIS	92			
1422½	772½	MMT Compt	1285	+ 27½	1.2	33.9
164½	109½	MR Group	148	+ ½	3.3	19.6
565	320	Macro 4	480		6.7	13.9
342½	142½	Marlborough Int	305			55.2
82½	52½	Mentmore Abbey	81½		1.0	24.4
721	470	Micro Focus	520	+ 17½		32.7
137½	55	Microgen	132½		4.7	17.7
3723	1825	Misys	3450	+ 95	0.5	57.7
336	230½	MITIE Gp	320	- 1½	0.9	35.1
57½	51½	Novo Group	53½		3.7	12.1
81	41½	Orbis▼	59		3.5	
780	500	PSD	650		1.6	25.1
862½	635	Parity†	846½		6.8	41.5
395	248	Pegasus	360		2.6	12.4
242½	145	Penna	237½		1.2	12.1
329	151	Photo-Me	330	+ 5	2.1	30.9
54½	35	Proudfoot†	44½	- ½	1.4	10.7
247½	160	RCO	178		11.3	30.2
332	218½	RPS Group	327		1.8	27.0
43½	25½	Radius	43½		3.2	14.8
600	317½	Real Time	580		1.3	30.0
124½	79	Rebus	118	- ½	4.1	
193	119½	Reed Executive	179	+ 9	2.1	9.6
193	162	Reliance Sec	190	- ½	4.5	16.8
440	265	**Rentokil Int**	410	- 3½	0.9	40.7
231	152½	Ricardo Group	231		3.5	29.1
576	456	Robert Walters	462	- 1½	1.1	21.3
510	275	Rolfe & Nolan	330			55.3
382½	297½	Royalblue	362½	- 2½	0.8	48.8
1585	825	Sage Grp	1550	+ 7½	0.2	61.2
160	74	Sanderson†	152	- ½	4.3	13.9
948	551	Select App	920	- 11½	0.5	39.4
2802½	1475	Serna Grp	2785	+ 90	0.3	71.2
1438½	868	Serco Gp	1438½	+ 2½	0.6	60.2
199½	154½	Shanks & McEwan	191½	+ 5	2.8	
915	520	Shered Intl	912½		0.7	38.4
74	44	Simon Grp	58	- 1	1.4	15.4
61	37½	Sketchley	41½	- 1½		
320½	181½	Sotsgroup	319		1.6	29.3
125	103	Stat-Plus	112		12.6	11.1
275	92	Superscape VR	234½	+ 4½		
126½	85	Torex	126½	+ 9	2.3	21.1
3500	2250	Tyco Intl	3250		0.2	
134½	86½	WSP Group	123½	+ 1	2.8	17.2
225	182	Warner Howard	182		8.2	8.1
250	176	Waste Mgt Intl	248			58.6
499½	332½	Waste Recyg	458	- 5½	0.7	42.3
278½	199	Whitehead Mann	267½		3.6	
97½	62½	White Young Grn	92½	- ½	4.7	14.3
500	304	**Williams**	405	- 7	3.9	20.8

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
718½	411½	**BT**	698½	+ 26½	3.5	20.2
2287½	614½	COLT Telecom	2047½	+ 30		
765	467½	**Cable Wireless**	676	+ 12	1.8	30.9
530	264½	Cable&Wire Comm	527½	+ 39½		
937½	252½	Energis	842½	+ 15		
346½	250	Euro Telecom	328½		1.1	
217	77½	General Cable	213½	- 2½		
137½	33	Ionica Group	37½	- 1½		
514	239½	**Orange**	481	- 4		
480	286½	Securicor	441½		0.7	57.3
134½	69½	TeleWest	131	- 2		
787	298	**Vodafone†**	706	+ 6½	1.0	53.9

TRANSPORT

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
440	210	Air London†	390	+ 5	2.2	21.9
357	194½	All Nippon Airt	201	+ 6½		
518	344½	Arriva	352	- 8½	4.8	10.0
388	292½	Assoc Br Ports	341	+ 1	3.3	16.7
372	284½	Autologic	351		2.7	
293½	166½	Avis Europe	247½	- 9½	1.5	24.6
731½	402½	**BAA†**	659½	- 7	2.6	18.1
709	498	**Br Airways†**	674½	- 12½	3.1	19.6
140½	90½	Clarkson (H)†	128½		3.9	14.6
192½	135½	Clydeport Ors	190½	- 1	3.6	
465½	317½	Dart	446½		1.9	21.9
82½	43½	Eurotunnel Uts	73½	- 1		
451	331½	Firstgroup	415½		2.0	23.7
140	125	Fisher (James)	126		3.2	9.6
692	580	Forth Ports	665	- 5	2.7	16.2
92½	60	Frontline	70			
723½	510	Go-Ahead	710½		1.6	17.0
601½	490	Goode Durant	515	- 2½	2.6	15.2
498	305½	Helphire Gp†	497	- 2½	0.3	
1135	740	Irish Cont	1080		0.5	23.1
96½	74½	Jacobs	88	- ½	3.2	38.3
642½	490	Mersey Docks	606½	- 5	3.0	23.3
203	138½	NFC†	167		4.0	17.3
1118½	676	Natl Express	1032½	+ 5	1.6	23.3
817½	562½	Ocean Group	738½	- 15	2.4	22.7
121½	92½	Ocean Wilson	116½		4.7	7.4
971	650	**P & O Dfd**	864	+ 12	4.5	19.3
116½	107½	P & O 5.5%†	111½		6.2	
1518	571½	**Railtrack**	1286	+ 4	2.4	19.7
130	98	Salvesen (C)	118	- 2	8.0	10.1
49	36	Seacon	48		3.3	36.4
296½	244	Seascope Ship	263½		5.9	6.4
311½	180	Servisair	239	+ 10	2.8	19.3
1477½	765	Stagecoach	1300	+ 39	1.0	29.6
628	547½	Tibbet & Britn	606½		3.6	15.8
330½	251	TDG	308½		6.8	20.1
116½	76½	Uglandt	99		6.2	8.3
72½	39½	Utd Carriers	45	- 1½	9.7	11.8

WATER

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
967	780	Anglian	868	+ 8	5.8	9.6
335	265	East Surrey	288½		4.9	11.7
1053½	907	Hyder	953	+ 1½	6.9	9.6
128½	115½	Hyder Cm Pf	125½	- 1½	7.8	
775	660	Mid Kent Hldgs	745		5.7	
1085	665	Severn Trent†	990	+ 17	5.2	18.5
3675	2265	South Staffs†	3585	- 15	3.7	
1005	864½	South West†	963	- 1½	5.3	12.5
1080	800	**Thames**	1053	+ 8	4.7	11.5
960	658	**Utd Utilities†**	870	+ 25	6.1	10.6
550	452	Wessex	454½	+ 1	5.7	9.0
550	436½	Yorkshire†	443½	+ 5	5.7	9.1

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

1998 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
235	193	Cale Inns	228½		1.9	14.7
29	14½	Chorion†	24	- ½		
222½	155	Dawson Hdgs	176		3.6	17.1
39½	29	Freepages	38½	- ½		
65½	47½	Megalomedia	49		0.5	20.2
38	21½	Memory Corp	32½	+ 1½		
490	344	Prism Rail	435		2.6	
847½	620	Ramco Egy	667½			
845	740	Southern News	845	+ 1½	3.1	16.5
94½	82½	Southern Vecas	82½		3.2	12.8

Source: FT Information

Price at suspension, † Ex dividend, ‡ Ex scrip ▲ Ex rights issue ▼ Ex all, § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	100	Treas 7¼% 1998	100		7.25	7.65
105	102	Treas 15½% 1998	102	-	15.18	7.43
104	101	Exch 12% 1998	101		11.79	7.44
102	101	Treas 9½% 1999	101		9.40	7.46
106	103	Exch 12¼% 1999	103	-	11.83	7.32
104	102	Treas 10½% 1999	102	-	10.28	7.33
99	98	Treas 6% 1999	98	-	6.08	7.36
106	103	Conv 10¼% 1999	103	-	9.86	7.26
105	102	Conv 9% 2000	102	-	8.75	7.18
104	102	Treas 8% 2000	102	-	7.82	6.88
103	101	Treas 8½% 2000	101	-	8.34	7.32
114	111	Treas 13% 2000	111	-	11.70	7.11
109	107	Treas 10% 2001	107	-	9.32	6.97
102	100	Treas 7% 2001	100	-	6.95	6.73

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
103	101	Treas 7% 2002	101	-	6.90	6.56
113	111	Treas 9¾% 2002	111	-	8.76	6.60
109	106	Treas 8% 2003	106	-	7.50	6.40
118	115	Treas 10% 2003	115	-	8.65	6.42
114	111	Treas 11½% 2001-04	111	-	10.35	6.98
93	90	Fund 3½% 1999-04	91	-	3.82	5.12
119	116	Conv 9½% 2004	116		8.13	6.24
105	101	Treas 6¾% 2004	103	-	6.55	6.16
116	112	Treas 8½% 2005	114	-	7.44	6.08
120	117	Conv 9½% 2005	118	-	8.04	6.19
130	127	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127	-	9.79	6.36
111	107	Treas 7½% 2006	109	-	6.82	5.98
112	108	Treas 7¾% 2006	111	-	6.98	6.02
107	105	Treas 8% 2002-06	105	-	7.62	6.01
123	120	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120	-	9.73	6.47
119	115	Treas 8½% 2007	117		7.23	5.84
111	106	Treas 7¼% 2007	109	-	6.59	5.86
129	121	Treas 9% 2008	124	-	7.25	5.84
120	113	Treas 8% 2009	117	-	6.79	5.81
105	99	Treas 6¼% 2010	104	- 1	5.99	5.74
131	124	Conv 9% 2011	129	-	6.97	5.78
133	125	Treas 9% 2012	130	-	6.89	5.78
101	93	Treas 5½% 2008-12	99	-	5.55	5.58
120	112	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	118	-	6.55	5.79

LONGS (over 15 years)

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
124	116	Treas 8% 2013	123	-	6.54	5.76
128	118	Treas 8% 2015	125	-	6.37	5.67
138	127	Treas 8¾% 2017	135	-	6.45	5.67
133	121	Tr 8% 2021	130	-	6.13	5.62

UNDATED

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
63	55	War Ln 3½%	61	-	5.69	
44	38	Treas 2½%	42	-	5.86	
68	61	Consols 4%	66	-	5.99	

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:

1998 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	5%	3%
199	194	Treas IL 2½% 2001	198	+	3.05	1.46
197	192	Treas IL 2½% 2003	196	-	2.99	3.35
127	124	Treas IL 4⅝% 2004	126	-	2.88	3.10
216	206	Treas IL 2% 2006	214	-	2.78	2.95
198	187	Treas IL 2½% 2009	196	-	2.71	2.85
209	195	Treas IL 2½% 2011	208	-	2.67	2.78
176	162	Treas IL 2½% 2013	175	-	2.61	2.71
193	175	Treas IL 2½% 2016	191	-	2.56	2.65
190	170	Treas IL 2½% 2020	188	-	2.56	2.64
163	142	Treas IL 2½% 2024	161	-	2.53	2.60
160	140	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	157	-	2.50	2.56

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FILM

Meg Ryan shines in City of Angels

PAGE 39

THE TIMES ARTS

COMEDY

Could this be the new Victor Borge?

PAGE 41



Lesley O'Toole talks to Jennifer Aniston about her transition from television sitcom star into hot Hollywood property

Daring to go further than just friendship

CHRIS HARRIS



Helping hand: Jennifer Aniston attributes her growing personal confidence to the enduring success of *Friends*

Jennifer Aniston was convinced she had blown her chance of starring in *The Object of My Affection*, a film project entrenched in development hell for ten years and finally reaching fruition under the direction of Nicholas Hytner. "It was the worst audition of my life," says the gorgeously tanned and attired Aniston candidly. "I was absolutely petrified of meeting Nick Hytner. And I sucked. I was mortified."

Time went by. Aniston heard nothing and assumed the worst. She was disappointed but not surprised. For years Aniston traipsed in and out of Hollywood auditions, occasionally scooping television roles but scoring only bit parts in films she would rather nobody trawled the aisles of video shops to find.

"I couldn't get a movie to save my life. I was too fearful. Movies just seemed too big for me. Perversely, television auditions were a breeze. I could walk into a sitcom audition and it would be the easiest thing in the world. I just couldn't do that for films."

Signing Aniston for your movie is no easy prospect. Not only might she fluff the audition, but her time constraints are ludicrously prohibitive. "I get a little two-month break here and there while *Friends* is in hiatus." When she got the call, "there was no time to get nervous, it just happened. Finding something really special to fit into that time was such good luck."

Hytner, in fact, remembers her audition rather differently. "She was just dazzling, wonderful. I remember turning to the casting director and saying, 'Well, yeah, she's fantastic but how do we ever make the movie with *her*?' I had never seen *Friends*, so I didn't know her. I was thrilled when I found out she was a big commercial draw."

A hit television series does not necessarily translate into hit movies for cast members, as Aniston's male *Friends* colleagues have discovered. Aniston attributes her own, more successful transition to the big screen to the personal confidence she has gained by virtue of the enduring success of *Friends*. "I hope to God I've grown as an actor, too."

Aniston, in fact, sells herself short. On screen she is not only immensely appealing but a skilled enough actor to eliminate plenty of her larger-than-life *Friends* persona. Nonetheless, she was gracious and grateful when Hytner told her that her acting methods required some refinement.

"He saw little habits that I didn't even know I had. Some of them were as simple as saying 'you know' all the time. But he broke me of many of these habits safely. I felt such trust and, as a result, was taken places as an actor where I've never been. He created an unbelievable atmosphere that made everyone, cast and crew, want to go further."

Not every A-list Hollywood actress may have felt so comfortable, given the film's premise. In Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Wendy Wasserstein's script, based on Stephen McCauley's novel, a straight woman falls for and almost successfully seduces a gay man, then asks him to help to raise the child she is expecting by her former fiancé. Aniston, though, was immediately attracted to the story's unconventional aspect.

> "I don't want to be a flavour of the month. I want to try to make good movies"

"I like these kinds of stories where there is conflict. Relationships are not easy, and I love that these characters are complex — not only not perfect, but flawed, characters who don't always do the right thing and aren't always politically correct."

Was she concerned about the similarly themed film *My Best Friend's Wedding*, in which Julia Roberts had electric chemistry with Rupert Everett though she wasn't actually in love with him? "I did see that," she says, not altogether enthusiastically, "but I think it's a different movie. Of course, people are lumping it together with things like that as a gay movie but I don't see it as one. It happens to be a love story between these two dear friends. The obstacle in this relationship isn't that he's married or not interested or restricted religiously; it's that he's gay. It's a shame that some people I know are having a hard time swallowing the fact that a gay man is being represented in a movie in neither a satirical nor jokey kind-of way."

She has received mostly wonderful reactions from the gay men she has met since the film's American release earlier this year but has also encountered "real asshole reactions", usually from heterosexuals in America's famously conservative Midwest.

"I just don't understand why people have such an easy time watching violence towards women and such a hard time watching a love story between two people, one of whom happens to be gay. For some reason, the red flags go up and people flip out. It's wrong, that's all I can say."

As ever in Hollywood, similarly themed movies appear in clutches. Besides *My Best Friend's Wedding*, there is another film playing in America, *The Opposite of Sex*, in which a woman also falls for a gay man. "All of a sudden, it seems it's the fashion or something. But I really don't want to think that. I'm hoping that maybe one person took the ball and ran with it, and someone else who'd wanted to do the same thought, 'Oh, OK, I can do this now'. Hollywood is so insecure in that respect."

Currently enjoying time off, Aniston recently completed *Office Space*, a very dark film written and directed by Mike Judge, creator of *Beavis and Butthead*, and will resume filming *Friends* in August. "I've no idea how the storyline will continue," she says of the season-ending cliffhanger filmed in London. "It's cruel and unusual," she smiles wickedly. "But I had a wild time in London. Nothing feels better than being somewhere where people are so excited to see you."

She is contracted to *Friends* for two more seasons and seems in no hurry to circumvent her legal ties to the sitcom which changed her life. She may, though, rue the inclusion of real-life boyfriend Tate Donovan as Rachel's most recent love interest, since the pair recently split.

"Hearing the awful speculation about my break-up in the press was terrible. You still think there are things like that which you can do alone, but you can't and so many hurtful things have been said." On a happier note, the thoroughly genuine-seeming Aniston has been linked recently with a famously well-grounded star, Brad Pitt.

Aniston says that only once, maybe for a second, did she consider jettisoning any semblance of a private life too big a price to pay for her career. "I think it was one isolated, heated moment because this is what I've worked for my whole life. I know I'm part of a business that is a big, created game, but I don't want to be a flash or a flavour of the month. I want to try as hard as I can to make good movies."

● The Object of My Affection *opens on June 26*

NEW ON VIDEO

■ **GODZILLA MOVIES**
4 Front
ONE month before the new *Godzilla* hits the cinemas, seven of the original Japanese adventures from the 1960s and 1970s invade the video stores, all released in widescreen format with some of the original trailers. Bad American dubbing, cheesy special effects and the period charm of hideous 1970s clothes combine to produce films difficult to take seriously. Titles include *Destroy All Monsters* (PG), *Godzilla vs Megalon* (PG), *Ebirah — Horror of the Deep* (U) and *Terror of Mechagodzilla* (15).

■ **HOME ALONE 3**
Fox Pathé, PG, 1997
THERE is not much you can do with the *Home Alone* plot except repeat it with variations. So here is another young tyke left by himself over Christmas, repelling intruders with booby traps. Since Macaulay Culkin is too old, the youngster in peril is now Alex D. Linz, who is almost as frightening as the baddies trying to retrieve a microchip accidently lodged in a toy car. The slapstick is tougher than before — these villains actually carry guns: a sorry sign of the times. Available to rent.

■ **PRISONER OF THE MOUNTAINS**
Tartan, 15, 1996
THE plotline comes from a Tolstoy novel, but there is nothing literary or out of date about this compelling Russian film directed by Serge Bodrov. The background is the conflict in Chechnya; we follow the fortunes of two wounded Russian soldiers held hostage in a Chechen mountain village. Bodrov, best-known for *Freedom is Paradise*, excels at direct, poignant observation, and his film builds into a powerful anti-war statement.

■ **SEVEN YEARS IN TIBET**
Entertainment, 18, 1997
WANT to escape the World Cup? A trip to the Himalayas with Brad Pitt might sound just the ticket, though you have to put up with a crowded script and aloof characters hard to warm to. Pitt plays a self-obsessed Austrian mountaineer who wends his way to the Himalayas during the Second World War, where he absorbs wisdom from the young Dalai Lama. Gorgeous scenery makes the film easy on the eyes, and the ethnic detail is interesting. Based on a true story, though it does not always feel like it. Available to rent.

GEOFF BROWN

Benedict Nightingale previews the Wooster Group's Radio 3 debut

Do not adjust your wireless

Of all Eugene O'Neill's plays, *The Emperor Jones* is the most visually daring. As Brutus Jones, the black American who has escaped a chain-gang to become dictator of a Caribbean island, runs through the jungle away from his rebellious subjects, he hallucinates ghosts and memories, among them a slave auction, two murders, a ferocious witchdoctor, a crocodile and "little formless fears". Is there a piece less obviously suited to radio? More specifically, why is it on our airwaves on Sunday, a major contribution to Radio 3's month-long season of American work?

Well, switch on and be surprised. The outfit presenting the piece is the Wooster Group, for the past 20 years the most striking of New York's more experimental theatre companies. With *Long Day's Journey into Night* recently on stage at its Performing Garage in SoHo, *The Hairy Ape* now touring mainland Europe, and a production of *The Iceman Cometh* tentatively planned, it is currently chin-deep in America's greatest dramatist. But as you might expect of a troupe which added masks, film and dances from the Cook Islands to Chekhov's *Three Sisters*, rechristening it *Brace Up!*, Wooster's first foray into radio is not lacking in imaginative verve.

I caught *The Hairy Ape* on stage in Amsterdam, and saw for myself why one academic sums up the company's style as "amplification and intoxication". The set is a shadowy jumble of steel bars, fretwork and walkways, with one video screen showing an endless boxing match and others interpolating surreal effects; a sound boom hovers over the actors; and the tale of Yank Smith, ship's stoker and rebel, takes on an extraordinary intensity. Raging at the genteel girl passenger who calls him "a filthy beast", drunkenly prowling New York in hopes of avenging himself on her family, the actor Willem Dafoe exploits black make-up and glinting white-and-red eyes to out-Caliban Caliban and leave you feeling that some Kraken has stumbled out of the world's dark unconscious to terrify the surface-dwellers.

The same team is responsible for *The Emperor Jones*. Elizabeth LeCompte directs, as she did when the play was at the Performing Garage earlier this year. Dafoe — still probably best known here as the title-character in Scorsese's *Last Temptation of Christ* — is Smithers, Jones's slimy cockney sidekick. And Jones himself turns out to be a her: Kate Valk, seen in *The Hairy Ape* tripping in white through the bowels of Yank's ship and trilling and twittering out her horror at the oil-slick covering his face.

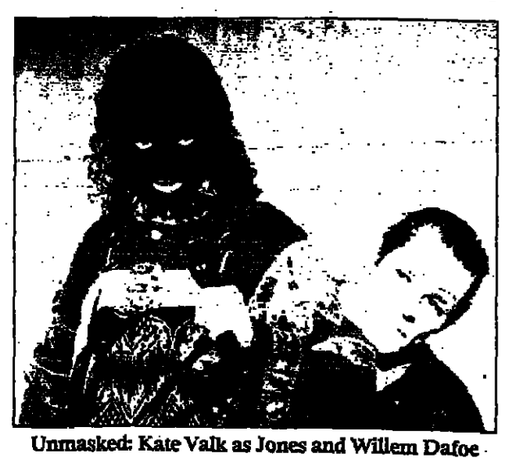
Isn't this taking cross-gender, cross-racial casting to absurd extremes? As it turns out, no. The Woosters work a lot with masks, by which they usually mean heavy, oriental-style make-up, emphatic costumes and highly stylised speech. As Dafoe puts it: "When you put on a mask, you look and feel different. So it allows you to think in new ways, liberate your imagination, surprise yourself, find a whole new reality." In the radio *Emperor Jones*, the costumes and the original dances are obviously missing; but Valk's alto, rumbling with apprehension or exotically gurgling with laughter, pulls you unprotesting into O'Neill's haunted world. "It's not intimate, not small, not naturalistic," she says. "It's a huge vocal mask because *he's a huge tragic hero*."

For LeCompte, the losses are bearable, since she originally conceived her production as a sort of concert duet, with Valk and Dafoe at a mike, and the composer David Linton, who was present throughout rehearsals, just behind them. When she transposed the production to the radio — little was recorded in the studio — she replaced some visual happenings with music or even silence, trusting listeners to use their imaginations to fill any gaps. If sometimes one wishes the Woosters were creatively more complete, there are no problems with comprehension.

But why O'Neill and *The Emperor Jones* in the first place? LeCompte and her performers tend to evade such questions, insisting that they choose their plays on instinct and discover the reasons through their customarily long, demanding rehearsals. The Woosters have no social, political or psychological agenda, they say. Intellectual explanations are for grant applications, not for everyday use, and the academic tags they sometimes attract ("unique multimedia deconstructionist style") make them laugh.

"We're pragmatic and perhaps moronic," says LeCompte. "The thinking is in the doing. Come and see us. Everything we're about is on the stage." Or, until the group revisits Britain, on the airwaves.

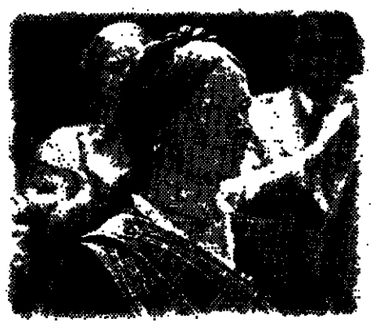
● *The Emperor Jones is broadcast on BBC Radio 3 on Sunday, 7.30pm*



Unmasked: Kate Valk as Jones and Willem Dafoe

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A divine Nicolas Cage takes an intense interest in affairs of the human heart in Brad Silberling's poignant supernatural romance, *City of Angels*

Heavenly leading man waiting in the wings

NEW MOVIES: Nicolas Cage as an angel? **Geoff Brown** reviews one of the year's more unlikely cinematic sights

"Are you in despair?" Nicolas Cage asks, in a golden tone that suggests runny honey slurping out of a jar. She is, she is, but she doesn't admit it: how could she, being Meg Ryan? He is an angel. She is a heart surgeon. He stood invisible in her operating theatre while she inexplicably lost a patient, and he was smitten.

Now he appears before her eyes in a hospital corridor, and begins his line of romantic chat. She is hard to soothe, but he presses on with the celestial point of view: when she later suggests that this life is the only one, he says, kindly: "How do you explain the enduringness of heaven?"

What is going on here? Angels? Heart surgeons? Enduringness? Clearly, the devisers of this sumptuous oddity, **City of Angels**, are not spooning out the old Hollywood twaddle. In fact they are remaking the German film *Wings of Desire*, Wim Wenders's art-house hit of 11 years ago, which put two angels on to Berlin streets to ponder on human experience. The producer Dawn Steel, who died last December, secured the remake rights long ago. Now, finally, those wings of desire flap above Los Angeles.

John Seale's camerawork, often shot from a swirling helicopter, transforms the city into a romantic metropolis, where even the rain looks adorable: the perfect setting for two Hollywood stars to do the expected and fall in love. But we don't get the expected. We get philosophical musings, quicksilver images, poetic stuff with angels on the beach, gathering at sunset.

Does this Hollywood art movie work? Yes and no. Considering that the director is Brad Silberling, last encountered making a pig's ear out of the family comedy *Casper*, the film's success is considerable. *City of Angels* has taste, intelligence and maturity, and moves to a controlled rhythm. Special effects are sparingly used: characters and their interplay matter more.

Meg Ryan also comes out of it well. She has put away her mannerisms in a box. This heart surgeon, Maggie, who bicycles to work, never has time to act the pert pixie. Cage is effective too, within limits. He gazes with convincing celestial concern; he even moves like someone not quite in step with human behaviour.

Unfortunately, this lovelorn angel is stuck for most of the time with the same soulful expression, and it grows tiring. The film's rhythm becomes a problem too: it is slow, slow, slow. No matter what little twist Dana Stevens's script offers, the audience has time to think of it first.

In short, nothing in *City of Angels* is as profound or beautiful, or as full of "enduringness", as the film-makers think. But this is no time for harsh judgments. Silberling's band do try hard. Schmaltz is avoided. The heart is touched, the eye entertained, the brain gently tickled. You could do far worse.

No American film this week follows the straight and narrow. **The Last Time I Committed Suicide** adopts a free-wheeling approach to its free-wheeling subject — Neal Cassady, the inspiration for Kerouac's *On the Road* and general Beat Generation legend, who died in 1968, aged 42, found in a coma beside railway tracks. Black-and-white images jostle with colour; scenes get punctured by imaginary home movies or a proudly announced "Hollywood flashback".

The camera wanders in a hand-held daze, or moves in close to taste a grilled cheese sandwich. You would not guess from this cinematic parade that the writer and director Stephen Kay had spent most of his past time writing plays and performing on TV in *General Hospital*.

For all the film's fancy visuals, actors still matter. Thomas Jane plays Cassady, depicted in his late teens in the 1950s in Denver; a drifting bohemian pondering whether life with his depressive lover Joan will ever lead to suburban bliss. The camera spends time idolising Jane, for Kay is in love with the Cassady legend, and expects us to be too. British actress Claire Forlani is beguiling as Jane. Keanu Reeves also appears, as Cassady's pool-playing buddy Harry, though he makes comparatively little impact.

An interesting film, then; but one that proves strangely easy to shrug off. This girl or that girl, this bar or that: what does it matter? Best to savour Kay's creation for what it really is: not so much a dramatic film as an act of worship to a cultural icon, as footloose as Cassady itself and the free-form jazz that burbles moodily on the soundtrack.

The Last Time I Committed Suicide made its debut 18 months ago at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. So did **Dream With the Fishes**, a likeable first feature for Finn Taylor, playwright, poet and writer of one Hollywood movie well worth forgetting, *Pontiac Moon*. Like Stephen Kay, he has now gone independent with a vengeance, crafting a film that seeks to blow away cobwebs and recreate the maverick spirit of American cinema in the late 1960s and 1970s.

Dream With the Fishes, a road movie of sorts, follows the fortunes of a buttoned-down drip bent on suicide (David Arquette). He joins forces in San Francisco with a heroin addict, played by Brad Hunt, whose own life expectancy is cut short by a terminal illness. Thirty years ago the stars could have been Jack Nicholson and Dennis Hopper, featured in *Easy Rider*.

Taylor's motto, plainly, is "Anything Goes". Illegal substances abound. Established society is kicked black and blue. And the mood shifts like a jumping jack: comedy, tragedy, slapstick, tenderness. Too many American independent movies have their heads stuck in the past, but at least Taylor's retro styling is executed with real panache, and a genuine feeling for the young and reckless as they rob a pharmaceutical store, steal cars and bowl in the nude.

After two American films in love with the past, how about the real thing? Something old. Something good. Like **Point Blank**. Watching this revival of John Boorman's first Hollywood venture, made for MGM in 1967, so many thoughts tumble out. You cannot help noticing how good it still is; how cool and post-modern Lee Marvin's criminal appears as he stalks his former associates in crime, an icy avenging angel determined to retrieve his share of the loot. You also note Boorman's intelligence and daring, as he casts a cool, foreign eye on the concrete jungles of San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Above all *Point Blank* demonstrates a wealth of expressive devices far beyond the narrow options that most modern narrative films adopt (even Boorman's adventurous *The General*). Time and plot are skewed in a European fashion, recalling the French New Wave. Slow-motion is not yet a cliché. The soundtrack music, by Johnny Mandel, is sparse and spare; this is not a film afraid of quiet, or of making an audience do some work. Compared with the lean, mean *Point Blank*, *City of Angels* (daring by current Hollywood standards) looks like a box of chocolates.

Savior looks like hell, though it is obviously hard to make a pretty sight from Serbian villagers being bashed to death with mallets. At such moments the director of this American anti-war drama, Peter Antonijevic, stares bluntly at the action. He does the same at quieter times: there is no visual grace, unlike in Michael Winterbottom's **Welcome to Sarajevo**.

The film, shot in Montenegro, and produced by Oliver Stone and Janet Yang, pursues its story in much the same clumsy manner. After a Muslim bomb kills his wife and child in Paris, American soldier Dennis Quaid shoots up a mosque, joins the Foreign Legion and becomes a Serbian mercenary. He is appalled by the atrocities on all sides, but cannot emerge from his emotional deep freeze.

Even when he shelters an abused Serbian girl and her new baby, Quaid still maintains the constipated look that signals inner pain. Perhaps if we felt his rage, subsequent scenes wouldn't appear hollow. But we don't: so they do.

City of Angels
Warner West End, 12, 114 mins
Desirable remake of Wings of Desire

The Last Time I Committed Suicide
ABC Piccadilly, 15, 93 mins
Lively film about Beat Generation legend Neal Cassady

Dream With the Fishes
Metro, 18, 96 mins
Energetic salute to the young and reckless

Point Blank
National Film Theatre, 15, 92 mins
John Boorman's cult thriller revived

Savior
Virgin Haymarket, 18, 103 mins
Hollow anti-war drama

'Absolute heaven with a heart'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases . . .

■ *CITY OF ANGELS*
Emma Rolph, 19: Absolute heaven. A romantic comedy with a huge heart.
Leslie Isaiah Thomas, 20: This goes straight into my all-time movie *Top Ten*. I loved it.
Carl Clark, 19: Brilliant — it's sparky rather than slushy.
Alison Juliard, 20: Meg Ryan is wonderful as usual, but Nicolas Cage is a revelation — his performance is soft, fragile and heartbreaking.

■ *SAVIOR*
Emma: We are all aware of the atrocities that happened in Bosnia. A documentary would have been more appropriate.
Leslie: Like watching a two-hour version of *News at Ten*. Definitely one to avoid.
Carl: A depressing experience. If you go in happy, you won't come out like it.
Alison: Worthy, but dull. The violence was graphic.

■ *THE LAST TIME I COMMITTED SUICIDE*
Emma: Keanu Reeves gives the kind of performance that you thought impossible. Could be a turning point in his career.
Leslie: With this movie, you can travel back to the 1950s Beat Generation. But do you really want to? I wish I hadn't.
Carl: Extremely weird, yet oddly watchable.
Alison: It's an interesting-looking film, but I can't imagine who its intended audience would be.

"Divine" – EMPIRE
"Enchanting" – TOTAL FILM
"Hauntingly beautiful" – MAXIM

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CITY OF ANGELS
12

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RECOMMENDED TODAY

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON



Tamara Rojo in ENB's *Romeo and Juliet* at the Albert Hall

ATHALIA. This year's Lufthansa Festival offers a rare opportunity to hear the first of Handel's great English oratorios. Ivor Bolton conducts the St James's Baroque Players and the Choir of Clare College, Cambridge, with soloists Lynne Dawson, Nancy Argenta, Christopher Robson and Mark Padmore. *St James's Church*, Piccadilly (0171-381 0441) Tonight, 7pm.

THE BONE ROOM. The bones of Spain's grim 16th-century sovereigns tell their history from the crypt of Granada's Royal Chapel in Judith Adams's intriguing play, presented by Theatre Alba.
Young Vic, SE1 (0171-928 6363) Opens tonight, 7.45pm. S

ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET: World premiere for the company's spectacular new, in-the-round production of *Romeo and Juliet*. ENB artistic director Derek Deane choreographs a mammoth cast of 120, lead by Tamara Rojo as Juliet and Roberto Bolle as Romeo.
Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) Opens tonight, 7.30pm. S

QUE-CIR-QUE. Remarkable French circus troupe of three lithe acrobats and a pole, telling a story of a woman choosing between two men with breath-taking skill and agility.
Highbury Fields, N5 (0171-288 6700) Opens tonight, 7.30pm

GRAPHIC ART: Kirchner, Klee, Kollwitz and Dix are some of the great artists whose prints and drawings are on display in an exhibition here of works by artists of the German Expressionist movement.
Marlborough Graphics (0171-629 5161) Opens today. Until July 17

ELSEWHERE

GARSINGTON: A Verdi first for Garsington as Stephen Unwin directs the Italian composer's last masterpiece *Falstaff*, based on Shakespeare's character. The cast is headed by Robert Poulton in the title role. Stephen Barlow conducts.
Garsington Opera, Nr Oxford (01865 361 636) Opens tonight, 6.15pm

MANCHESTER: The renowned a cappella group the King's Singers, joined by the virtuoso percussionist Evelyn Glennie, continues its tour of the nation featuring songs by Paul Simon and new pieces from Steve Martland and Peter Klatzow.
Bridgewater Hall (0161-907 9000) Tonight, 7.30pm S

NORWICH: Rambert Dance Company celebrates the centenary of the Spanish poet Lorca with a revival of Christopher Bruce and Lindsay Kemp's 1977 classic production *Cruel Garden*. A fusion of dance, theatre, music, song and poetry, the work is performed to a live score by Carlos Miranda played by the London Musici.
Theatre Royal (01603 630000). Tonight, 7.30pm S

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◪ Some seats available ☐ Seats at all prices

☐ **THE BASSET TABLE.** Subtitled *The Fan, the Fish and the Gambling Ladies*. London run for the Bristol Old Vic production of a comedy by Mrs Centlivre (1667-1723). See review, right.
Tricycle Theatre, NW6 (0171-328 1000) S

☐ **BILLY LIAR.** Paul Nicholls plays the two-timing daydreamer in revival of the Keith Waterhouse/Willis Hall comedy from 1960. Alex Walker directs.
King's Head, N1 (0171-226 1916) S

☐ **A DANGEROUS WOMAN:** Fenella Fielding plays a recently widowed Duchess of Windsor looking back on her life. John Brenner directs Paul Webb's play.
New End, NW3 (0171-794 0022) S

☐ **DISCO PIGS.** Enda Walsh's babbling, alarming, baby-talking play, set in Pork (Cork) City, now in the West End for a run. With Cillian Murphy and Eileen Walsh in the roles of Pig and Runt. Stylish but vacuous.
Arts Theatre, WC2 (0171-836 3334/2132)

☐ **ELTON JOHN'S GLASSES.** Brian Conley plays the football fan still traumatised by Watford's Cup Final defeat 14 years ago, in David Farr's enjoyable comedy, directed by Terry Johnson.
Queens (0171-494 5041)

GAS STATION ANGEL: New play by Ed Thomas, which begins when an imaginative couple meet after the young man's house falls into the sea.
Ambassadors (0171-565 5000).

☐ **OUTSIDE ON THE STREETS.** Gordon Anderson directs an excellent cast in a fine production of Wolfgang Borchert's hard-hitting drama written shortly before his death as a result of wounds received on the Eastern Front.
Gate, W11 (0171-229 0706)

THE UNEXPECTED MAN. Eileen Atkins and Michael Gambon in transfer of the RSC production of Yasmina Reza's elegant duet for strangers sitting opposite each other on a tram. See review right.
Duchess (0171-494 5075)

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

NEW RELEASES

THE APOSTLE (12) Engrossing portrait of a flawed Pentecostal preacher, memorably portrayed by Robert Duvall, who also writes and directs. With Miranda Richardson, Farrah Fawcett

THE BIG SWAP (18). Heterosexual thirtysomethings find their friendships suffer when they swap partners. Interesting British film which fails to do its subject justice. Niall Johnson directs. Sorcha Brooks, Kevin Howarth et al

THE GIRL WITH BRAINS IN HER FEET (15) Bouncy coming-of-age comedy set in Leicester in the early 1970s, with Joanna Ward as the 13-year-old heroine coping with growing pains. Director, Roberto Bangura.

THE GRASS HARP (PG) Young boy lives with two eccentric spinsters. Pleasing adaptation of Truman Capote's novel, with a pedigree cast. Charles Matthau directs his father Walter, Piper Laurie, Sissy Spacek, and Edward Furlong

SOUL FOOD (15) Tribulations of an African-American family. Cliched material, but presented with warmth and conviction. With Vanessa L. Williams, Vivica A. Fox and Nia Long. Director, George Tillman Jr

A THOUSAND ACRES (15). *King Lear* transferred to Iowa, with Jessica Lange, Michelle Pfeiffer and Jennifer Jason Leigh as daughters falling out over their father's land. Dreary. Director, Jocelyn Moorehouse

CURRENT

◆ **THE GENERAL** (15) Dynamic portrait of the buccaneering Irish criminal Martin Cahill (Brendan Gleeson). Powerfully directed by John Boorman

LIVE FLESH (18) Pedro Almodovar's latest: a succulent and absorbing tale of love, desire, guilt and revenge, adapted from Ruth Rendell

THE REAL BLONDE (15) Patchy but enjoyable send-up of the media world from director Tom DiCillo

SLIDING DOORS (15) Sacked PR Gwyneth Paltrow finds a new life and boyfriend, or does she? Pleasant romantic comedy, less complex than its fancy structure suggests. With John Hannah. Writer-director, Peter Howitt.

◆ **THE WEDDING SINGER** (12). Will Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore ever realise they're made for each other? Lightly likeable romantic comedy, set in the mid 1980s. Director, Frank Coraci

An unnatural gamble

MARILYN KINGWILL



Game for a laugh: Tom McGovern (Courtly) and Harriet Thorpe (Lady Reveller)

THEATRE

The Basset Table
Tricycle, NW6

Beware of productions in which exotically dressed thesps jokily change the scenery to loud music and brilliant strobe lighting. As Wild Iris's revival proceeds to demonstrate, it is a sureish sign of an overwrought evening and the sort of self-consciously bright, stylised acting that leaves you wondering if anyone onstage trusts the play at all.

Actually, mistrust is partly justified. The author of *The Basset Table* was Susanna Centlivre, who married Queen Anne's cook, or "yeoman of the mouth", and was one of a tiny, plucky band of women who could whip up frothy comedies for our post-Restoration playhouses. But this piece does not often or interestingly rise above the formulaic. The card-mad Lady Reveller, in Harriet Thorpe's performance a cackling blend of egoism and avarice, is tricked into believing herself sexually assaulted by Tom McGovern's Courtly and rescued by the nobleman she has rejected, Charles Daish's Worthy — would you believe she instantly renounces gambling, agrees to a nice conventional marriage and doesn't change her mind even when she realises she has been conned?

The programme's claim that Centlivre was a sort of proto-feminist, keen on morally and intellectually independent women, is scarcely justified by *The Basset Table*. Sara Powell's Lucy, who does little but primly denounce gaming as a destroyer of lives, is paired off with Worthy. Clare McCarron has fun with Valeria, a fanatic amateur scientist who dissects birds and rips giant tapeworms from dead dogs; but she cannot disguise the fact that she is as much an object of mockery as the bluestockings in Molière's *Learned Ladies*. And, for better or worse, she too ends up formulaically married, this time to a young soldier who has tricked her nautically minded father by pretending he is a sailor.

There is lively caricature here and there: the armchair warrior Plainman, with his braggart cries of "give me the *man who can meet death* or dinner with the same appetite", or the fighting tar Firebrand, whose credo is: "I hate the French and love a handsome woman and a bowl of *punch*." And *maybe a sharper*, slyer production would uncover something serious, witty or both in the play. But almost everyone onstage is trying too desperately to be funny. The statueque poses and elaborate gestures may be meant to send up Restoration mannerism but often seem more like maladroit attempts to bring back the kind of mannered Restoration acting we banished 30 years ago.

Only in a scene where the cast sits in smoky red light playing the game our ancestors called Basset, and Patti Love's gambloholic ends up pounding the floor in frenzied dismay at her appalling losses, does the energetic extravagance of Polly Irvin's production justify itself. I left as everyone was celebrating the curtain-call by flouncing about to loud rock like E-users in a warehouse, and remembered one of Valeria's lines: "*Pray speak positively, properly*, laconically and naturally." If only!

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Strangers on a train

The Unexpected Man
Duchess

Eileen Atkins and Michael Gambon are justly admired, even revered, actors who would probably be applauded for walking onto a stage to deliver a mere handful of sentences. But the cheers that burst from the audience at the conclusion of Yasmina Reza's play revealed the unusual intensity of feeling generated by their performances. Caught up in the emotions filling these strangers on a train when they find themselves sitting opposite each other on the Paris-Frankfurt Express, our urgency to know the end of their story becomes *the sort of need a new play seldom* generates.

The intimacy of the venue helps. First seen at the Barbican Pit two months ago, Matthew Warchus's RSC production is now playing at one of the cosiest West End theatres. In a play where so much of the dialogue is monologue, representing the interior thoughts of each character, our physical closeness to the stage plays an important role in our involvement.

But it is Reza's cunning stagecraft, able to fuse the energy of Atkins, Gambon and Warchus, that seizes our imagination in so tight a grip. Of course a train journey is rich in possibilities for a writer: even the character played by Gambon, a successful writer reluctantly travelling to meet his future son-in-law, toys with the idea of a story set on a train. The spin Reza gives to the idea is to make the woman a lifelong fan of this particular writer, even carrying *The Unexpected Man*, his latest novel, in her handbag. Her recurring indecision is whether to take the book out and continue reading it, because then she would feel impelled to say she recognises him.

So the man broods upon his reflection in the window — another potent train-journey image — or tries to balance hopes against achievement. Gambon's meaty voice invests his thoughts with the juice of a life that *has had all illusions beaten out of it*. The woman's preoccupation with him sets off memories of other men, men who behave like his characters, characters who might behave like their author. Atkins's poise and gravity are neatly deflated by the occasional casualness of her private postures.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Garden of delights

Digging For Ladies
Groombridge, Sussex

The idea of watching a performance in an English formal garden in June is often more romantic than the reality. However, the garden of Groombridge Place in East Sussex (the setting for *The Draughtsman's Contract*) is magical enough to overcome most discomfort, and anyway the sun made a surprise entrance just at picnic time.

The peace of the summer evening is shattered by the cries of "Coo-eeee" coming from behind the honeysuckle. Four galumphing ladies appear, all a little past their prime though girlish still in floral frocks. This is their story, a wild and delightful piece of whimsy.

Jyll Bradley's romping playlet is light and silly with dark shades of lyricism and disconcerting strangeness. It leads you up the garden path of its own peculiar logic, then leaves you wondering how you got there. It culminates with an image of apocalyptic eclipse that will be hard to forget.

Bradley gives horticultural vocabulary a new lease of life (never did the world "leguminous" sound so voluptuous) and revels in innuendo ("desirable wild natives will run riot in my borders" proclaims one glittering-eyed lady gardener). Bradley takes gardening as a metaphor for life, containing as much crushing disappointment as it does euphoria. The ladies serve Mother Nature but, as gardeners as well as women, have an ambiguous relationship with her.

All of this could be just like a school revue without the presence of four superb comic actresses: Helena Lymbery, Ella Harris, Cindy Oswin and Christine Entwistle. The characterisation goes deeper than the frumpy cardigans and unflattering hair-dos. There are moments of real passion and terrible bathos. They declaim the text with almost Shakespearean grandeur, then skip off for a sequence of Bacchic music and movement. It is a hybrid formed by grafting Joyce Grenfell with Sarah Bernhardt, Vita Sackville-West with Enid Blyton: a specimen whose charm is in proportion to its rarity.

CLARE BAYLEY

● Digging For Ladies *tours to Goodnestone Park, near Canterbury, tomorrow until June 21; St John's Garden, Regent's Park, June 26-28; Royal Observatory Gardens, Greenwich Park, July 9-11*

Chilling to a class act

The "summer" opera season at Holland Park got off to a warmer start on Tuesday than Glyndebourne and Garsington. It didn't rain and the cold was manageable. The Holland Park peacocks are the main problem: trumpets always seem to set them off in cheerful competition, and they accompanied Nedda's song to the birds with many an empathetic squawk.

Opera Holland Park's production of this near-indestructible double bill gave solid pleasure. The conductor, Jonathan Gill, showed genuine sympathy for the *verismo*

OPERA

Cav and Pag
Holland Park, W8

genre without quite disguising the fact that *Cavalleria rusticana* is extremely difficult to play well. And it is difficult to stage, too, without the sort of *verismo* stage detail that the company cannot afford. What do you give people to do in those long choruses? One solution in Sarah Alexander's workaday modern-dress productions was a little passion play in the Easter Hymn, in which the Virgin Mary was mimed by a bearded, black male chorus-member, striking an epic blow for political correctness.

Unfortunately, the Turiddu and Alfio were inexperienced on stage, and *Cav* had to be carried alone by the Santuzza. Sarah Rhodes played her touchingly as a Plain Jane in an aggressive floral print, her dangerous lower lip indicating that she could be pushed just so far and no further. She sang powerfully. But all members of the *Pagliacci* cast were expert actors, and it went with a swing, right from Keel Watson's entrance through the auditorium, treating audience, orchestra and stage alike with sneering contempt before launching into Tonio's Prologue. He's an extraordinary artist.

So is Antoni Garfield Henry. His tenor has not quite settled down yet — impressive top, but a thin patch in the middle — but which other Canio can turn so nifty a cartwheel? Certainly not Pavarotti. The aftermath to *Vesti la giubba*, movingly sung, was deeply stirring, his dead eyes staring in numbed misery through white-face clown's make-up. But even in the face of such competition, the show was stolen by Jane Leslie Mackenzie's beautifully sung Nedda. Voluptuous of figure, she cleverly suggested a thesp of a certain age well aware that she was entering the last-chance saloon, though she might have aimed higher than Mark Evans's wobbly, over-sung Silvio. Definitely ladies' night.

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Tickling the ivories for laughs

COMEDY: Hans Liberg has been hailed as the new Victor Borge. **Clive Davis** saw his act before its South Bank debut



Hitting the musical funny bone: Hans Liberg's "sit-down" comedy show, *Hans Liberg Zaps Himself*, won him huge acclaim and an Emmy award in New York

Like that renowned virtuoso Eric Morecambe in his performance of the Grieg Piano Concerto (conductor: A. Previn), Hans Liberg plays all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order.

And the notes come thick and fast. Brahms, John Lennon, Toscanini, Beethoven, Andrew Lloyd Webber — all these and many more besides make a fleeting appearance in his impish stream-of-consciousness show, mischievously described as "sit-down comedy".

If you were ever curious to know more about Mozart's favourite chords or how the Beatles pieced together their songs in the Abbey Road studios, then Liberg, a former musicologist turned entertainer, is eager to fill in the gaps.

Audiences at the Edinburgh Fringe have already become acquainted with him. Across the rest of Europe he has been acclaimed as a potential heir to Victor Borge. This week Liberg — who earned his doctorate with a thesis on scat singing and who is perfectly capable of launching into an aside on the principles of gamelan playing — makes his South Bank debut at the Purcell Room.

His performance in The Hague was a strange comedy-recital hybrid, part intellectual fizz, part slapstick. Most of the audience that filed into the ornate Diligentia Theatre in the centre of the Dutch capital seemed as respectable as any member of Alfred Brendel's fan club. Your average London comedy-club heckler would have looked sorely out of place.

When Liberg finally appeared from the wings, ankles protruding from a designer outfit that resembled a sailor's suit, he had the cherubic but faintly naughty look of the young Benny Hill.

Yet in the unlikely event that Tom Stoppard were ever to begin a new career as a piano player, he might well end up sounding like this. Liberg evidently adores verbal and musical conceits, some sophisticated, some (as in the pun on Franz "Pubert") downright schoolboyish. Some sequences peter out early on, others soar gloriously on an inspired wave of improvisation.

Most of his material this evening was delivered in Dutch. (Do not worry. The South Bank audience will hear the English version.) But the language barrier was not that great an obstacle anyway.

For the most part, Liberg was dealing in our common musical currency, as when he playfully demonstrated the "resonances" between *Don't Cry For Me Argentina* and a Brahms sonata. Later the disembodied voice of John Lennon was grafted on a studio re-creation of *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*, the star-struck Liberg picking out the notes at the keyboard.

Born in Amsterdam 44 years ago, he originally pursued a resolutely musical course, at one point making a living as a jazz pianist. He gives his wife, the painter Marliz Frencken, much of the credit for pushing him in the right direction after she watched him in a show where he gave a banjo-playing impersonation of, of all things, Kermit the Frog.

"The truth was," he says, "that when I was playing jazz, I was always thinking of something else. The solos were good, but I felt the audience had the same feeling. They never listened 100 per cent.

"My wife never liked jazz; she felt it was a superficial form. But when I did that impersonation, she noticed that I had a certain presence. People were responding to me."

Liberg gave his first theatre performance in 1981. Immensely popular in Holland today, he made his international breakthrough last year, when his fast-moving montage show *Hans Liberg Zaps Himself* won an Emmy award in New York.

He came to Edinburgh in 1995, submitting himself to the traditional learning curve of handing out leaflets in the street to drum up an audience and learning to deal with punters who offered such considered advice as: "Get off, you lesbian." Playing extracts from Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto in a pub was, he recalls, not the easiest way to win over a new public, but as a foreigner he always had the consolation of not understanding everything the hecklers were saying.

Now, with the Emmy in his pocket, there is talk of making it big in America. Agents and impresarios and assorted big guns have been sizing him up across the Atlantic. But if Liberg is ambitious, he knows his own mind too.

"They would ask things such as: 'Can you act? Can you do a sitcom?' But that's not really what I want to do. I'm a performing artist. I want to work in theatres and make people laugh with music. I'd want to make a sitcom about the life of Prokofiev, but nobody would watch it."

● *Hans Liberg performs at the Purcell Room (0171-960 4242) tonight and tomorrow at 8pm*

Eastern promise

CONCEFT
New Names
Barbican Hall

So used have we become to the staggering array of musical talent emanating from Russia this century, that we should now be prepared for anything. And yet one is staggered anew by the precocious accomplishment of the latest generation.

A sample of that talent was on display in the showcase provided by the New Names Foundation at the Barbican on Tuesday night. The youngest performer on this occasion was the 12-year-old pianist Juliana Avdeeva, who impressed enormously on her London appearance last year. This time she began with Balakirev's transcription of Glinka's *The Skylark*, a reading of poetic eloquence and mature musicality. Mendelssohn's *Rondo Capriccioso* was dispatched with appropriately light-fingered dexterity and Rachmaninov's fearsome Moment Musical in E Minor, Op 16 No 4, was an impressive whirlwind of activity. What this young pianist at present lacks in weight — and it's not a great deal — she more than makes up for with a feeling for nuanced dynamics and emotional commitment well beyond her years.

The Ballade from Ysaye's Sonata for solo violin in D Minor was played by the 15-year-old Gayk Gazazjan, delivering the taxing double-stopping effortlessly and with a commendable degree of aplomb. Tsiganov's transcription of Rodion Shchedrin's *In the Style of Albeniz* similarly gave the opportunity to flaunt a phenomenal technique, and if the rhythms of the Brahms *Hungarian Dance* played as an encore were a little glutinous, there was dazzling fingerwork on display here too.

The no less precocious 14-year-old cellist Alexander Buzlov (well supported, as his predecessor had been, by the pianist Irina Monastyrskaya) gave a colourful account of Efrem Zimbalist's Fantasy on Themes from *The Golden Cockerel*, before joining with Juliana Avdeeva and Gayk Gazazjan in pieces by Dvořák and Sviridov.

A further dimension — showmanship — was added after the interval by the 20-year-old clarinettist Igor Fedorov. His tone may sound pinched and nasal to Western ears, but he brought a touch of histrionic brilliance to Rossini's Introduction, Theme and Variations. To Poulenc's Clarinet Sonata he brought, in addition, a lively sense of wit and immaculate timing, with some exquisite sotto voce playing in the slow movement.

His accompanist was the equally adroit Alexander Ghindin (just a year older), who then proceeded to stun the audience with some Prokofiev and Stravinsky's Three Pieces from *Petrushka*, the latter in particular displaying the penchant for risktaking he shares with his idol Horowitz.

When one compares the level of training still offered by a country like Russia with our own systematic dismantling of music education, one weeps for the talents we are failing to nurture.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Up way past their bedtime

POP
Hanson
Wembley Arena

Judge us by our music not our age, insist the American teen pop phenomenon Hanson. So here goes. On the strength of this first British appearance, Hanson play derivative American rock, awash with influences but lacking identity. Their songs are unremarkable, with the solitary exception of the hit single *MmmBop*, an exuberantly infectious slice of prepubescent rock'n'roll that recalls the early days of the Jackson Five.

But there, you see, age has already entered into it. And with the three Hanson brothers mustering just 43 years between them, it is impossible to keep their adolescence out of the equation. Isaac, 17, Taylor, 14, and Zach, 12, came bouncing out of Tulsa almost exactly a year ago and reached No 1 in more than 20 countries with their first single. Unlike the Osmonds and other kindergarten acts, they do not play bubblegum or candy pop. They would rather be Pearl Jam than Boyzone and their records are produced not by some manipulative pop Svengali but by the ultra-hip Dust Brothers, whose other credits include Beck. They play their own instruments and claim to have written more than 200 songs. In other words, they want to compete with the big boys.

Yet how far they have to go was proved by their unwise choice of the Spencer Davis Group classic *Gimme Some Lovin'* as an opener. The original featured a thrilling white soul vocal from the teenage Stevie Winwood, at the time scarcely older than the Hanson boys himself, and their voices sounded anonymous in comparison. Augmented to a six-piece, they cranked up the volume and ran energetically through the up-tempo rockers from their first album, mixing in the occasional piano ballad. During an acoustic slot, which featured *Stories* and *With You in My Dreams*, they essayed some unconvincing Crosby, Stills and Nash-style harmonies, and later, a new song, *Everybody*, sounded like a bid for REM territory.

The plodding ballad *I Will Come to You* was standard boyband fare but mainly they preferred to rock. There was a spirited version of the Young Rascals' hit *Good Lovin'* and, of course, *MmmBop*, which they kept almost until last, sounded great. But with the exception of that one song and their extreme youth, there is little to distinguish Hanson from thousands of bands thrashing away in garages all over America.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Attitude overload

Royal Trux
Mean Fiddler, Dublin

ROYAL Trux are one of the more interesting oddities operating on the American art-rock fringe. Having overcome such occupational hazards as a serious drug habit and a major-label record deal, the core duo of Neil Hagerty and Jennifer Herrema now spend their time reading *The Wall Street Journal* and recording in their home-based studio.

Their latest album *Accelerator* — their seventh — has been hailed as their best to date. A fascinating sprawl of deconstructed rock'n'roll riffs played with loud, muddled guitars and droning keyboards, this is music which always appears between giant inverted commas.

But something invariably gets lost in the translation to the live stage, and so it proved at the Mean Fiddler. Standing with their backs to the audience for much of the gig, Royal Trux exuded a studied nonchalance that often gave the impression that they were treating this show as a rehearsal.

With her mop of blonde hair, oversized shades and cigarette permanently lodged between her fingers, Herrema looks like the missing link between the Chelsea Girls and the Stepford Wives. She shouts out nonsensical lyrics about bananas while Hagerty, looking like the ultimate slacker, cranks up his guitar and lets rip.

At times Royal Trux bring to mind the chirpy anarchism of Pavement, at others the ponderous experimentalism of Sonic Youth, but, intentional or not, it is all infuriatingly loose and just a little too laden with attitude.

NICK KELLY

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THAT unmistakable monochrome artwork, which makes every production look like an existential Winter Journey, signals another project of uncommon interest from ECM. This time, in conjunction with Hungary's outstanding Keller Quartet, this innovative German label presents a controversial performance of Bach's great *Art of Fugue* — for string quartet.

As ever, the disc comes with a deeply serious essay booklet which points out that cases have been made for performance of this keyboard work by line-ups such as a saxophone quartet. Here, the natural vibrancy of the strings comes closer to that of the four human voices in which fugue itself had its deepest roots. And, indeed, there is plenty of deep human as well as musical breathing to be heard in this close, intimate recording.

The Keller Quartet are free of tempo, firm of voicing, rigorous of rhythmic and structural definition. What this realisation lacks in the concentration of a single focus, it makes up in insights gained from the Keller's whimsical, often daring exploration.

OPERA
John Higgins

■ **SZYMANOWSKI**
King Roger
Zagorzanka/Ochman/
Hiolski/Polish Radio
Symphony Orch/Stryja
Naxos 8 660062-63 ★★ *£11.99*
BEFORE Penderecki and Lutoslawski came along Szymanowski was probably Poland's best known composer after Chopin. *King Roger* (1926) still gets the occasional hearing outside his native land.

There are plenty of echoes of early Strauss. The score is noisy and sweet by turns, exotic and neurotic. Szymanowski's subject is the Dionysiac side of human nature, a theme later to be taken up by Britten in *Death in Venice* and Henze in *The Bassarids*. Dionysus himself is represented by the Shepherd, sung with much persuasiveness by Wieslaw Ochman. He tries to lead the God-fearing Roger (Andrzej Hiolski) away to the sybaritic life amid the beautiful people. Cue for much oriental music and a spectacular vocalise of the type Rachmaninov used to write for grateful sopranos. This is given to Roger's wife Roxana and is sung spectacularly by Barbara Zagorzanska, although elsewhere her voice tends to the acidic.

Under conductor Karol Stryja *King Roger* comes over as more than a curious period piece.

ORCHESTRAL
Barry Millington

■ **KORNGOLD**
The Snowman (Act I); Fairy Tale Pictures; Overture to a Drama; Violanta (Prelude and Carnival)
BBC Philharmonic/Bamert
Chandos CHAN 9631 ★★★
£14.99
A DISC devoted to an adolescent's compositions would not normally excite great interest, but there was nothing normal about the precocious abilities of Erich Wolfgang Korngold. All the works on this disc were composed when he was between 12 and 17.

In the *Seven Fairy-Tale Pictures* (recorded here for the first time), the ballet-pantomime *The Snowman* and the *Overture to a Drama*, there is compositional dexterity and a good deal of charm and individuality, if not exactly emotional depth. That came a year or two later, in the opera *Violanta* and *Die Tote Stadt*. Exemplary performances from Matthias Bamert and the BBC Philharmonic.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

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SISTERS IN SOLITUDE
The new Anita Brookner

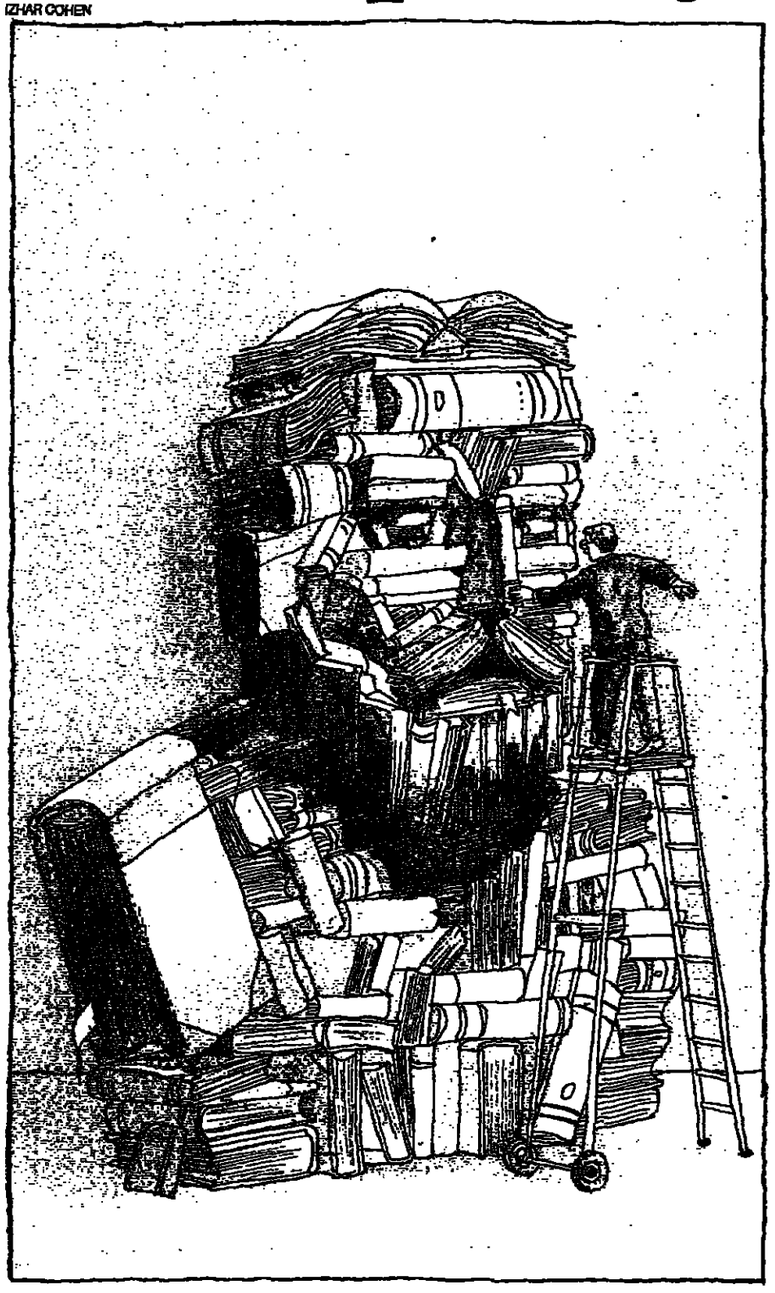
BOOKS

LADY NOVELIST
The life of Fanny Burney

Quantity and quality

Roger Scruton risks life and limb for the sake of philosophy

IZHAR COHEN



Philosophy placed itself in the centre of European civilisation with an Encyclopedia, composed to ruin the sacred truths of Christian culture. With contributions from Diderot, d'Alembert, Voltaire and Rousseau, the *Encyclopédie* was bound to be noticed. Indeed, it was one of the most influential books of the 18th-century, not so much for its content as for its stylish and patrician disdain. Since then there have been many lesser attempts to summarise and market the results of philosophical argument. Hegel wrote his own *Encyclopedia*, which was to prove that philosophy had reached its climax with Hegel, and would thereafter dwindle into nothingness. This did not happen, to the surprise of no one but Hegel. Philosophy moves on, adding to its intellectual agenda, and puffing clouds of scepticism over neighbouring fields. Hence there is always scope for an updated digest of its arguments.

ROUTLEDGE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILOSOPHY
Edited by Edward Craig
Print and CD-Rom together: £1,995
Print only: £1,695
CD-ROM only: £1,695 (all plus VAT)

With over 2,000 entries, spread over nine dense volumes, and with a thousand highly - qualified contributors, the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy* surpasses in range all previous attempts including the already magnificent eight-volume Encyclopedia edited by Paul Edwards, and first published 30 years ago. Seven years of work, under the well-informed editorship of Edward Craig, have been devoted to summarising and synthesizing discussions conducted in every variety of learned journal, to give an account of the subject that will make even the experts doubt that they are qualified to teach it. My main conclusion is that I am not competent to review this book; but nor is anyone else. So here goes.

Great efforts have been expended on making the *Encyclopedia* useful to the reader. Every entry is preceded by a short summary and followed by a reasoned bibliography. Cross references are pursued with great diligence and a general index (contained in a separate volume) guides the reader through the entire work. Not all the items covered by Edwards reappear in Craig; but there are many novelties, and traditional subjects are disaggregated to reveal their philosophical structure. This disaggregation is intellectually justified. But it has its drawbacks, for it enables contributors to seize by stealth the territory from which they have been driven in open combat. (An example is Hintikka, devoting the article on Quantifiers to a defence of his controversial game-theoretic semantics).

Disaggregation also encourages the technocrats. The four entries for Quantum theory, for example, are all so technical that nobody not already versed in the issues will understand them. This is a frequent fault, not to be found in Edwards and a sign, to my way of thinking, of a general decline in the *culture* (as opposed to the intellectual attainment) of professional philosophers. Culture is a discipline of the imagination; it enables a writer to see his subject from outside, as part of the whole field of human interest. Its principal manifestation, abundantly displayed by the original *Encyclopedie* — is style. Learning, reasoning, rigour and diligence are everywhere apparent in this new *Encyclopedia* — style, however, is not.

Craig has included many articles on the leading figures of contemporary philosophy — his criterion being not worth but reputation. It is interesting to compare the result with Edwards, and to discover how many abject phoneys — Derrida, Kristeva, Iragay et al — now share a platform with the greats. Foucault is evidently as significant an influence on modern philosophy as Wittgenstein, and Edward Said more important than Gentile.

The philosopher who dominated the Cambridge of my — and Craig's — youth, John Wisdom, does not even make the index, while the truly ludicrous Helen Cixous has a whole entry to herself. Not Craig's fault of course: he is only conscientiously recording the decline of his subject. And he does his best to compensate with articles on such heavyweights as Elizabeth Anscombe, Peter Strawson and Bernard Williams. If we were to consider not reputation but intellectual merit, however, then David Wiggins ought to have an entry, if only for his achievement in returning the concept of substance to the heart of metaphysics.

As in all collective efforts, there is much duplication. Political philosophy is covered twice and the foundations of mathematics several times. There are also oversights. If Tolstoy deserves an entry, why not Spengler? If legal hermeneutics, why not corporate personality, a concept at the centre of political philsophy? Still, these are quibbles. The *Encyclopédia* does its best to cover the discussions current in modern Western academia — from the icy remoteness of possible-world semantics to the urgencies of feminist "theory". It deals authoritatively with African, Islamic, Chinese, Indian and Japanese thought; it covers all the leading figures in Western philosophical history, and it gives a guide to the literature at every point where this might be useful. The Encyclopedia successfully completes the enterprise which it records — the Byzantinisation of the Western intellect.

For reasons best known to themselves, however, the publishers have issued only a PC version of the CD-Rom; Mac users (and that includes many universities) will not be able to avail themselves of this resource. This is a pity, since Encyclopedias are far easier to deal with on discs than on shelves. In ten days of interaction, Dr Craig's compendium has cost me a sprained shoulder, two bruised toes, a broken teapot and a quarrel with the postman.

Jean Benedetti seeks subtlety in Chekhov's life

Two's company, three's a crowd

CHEKHOV
The Hidden Ground
By Phillip Callow
Constable, £18.99
ISBN 00 9476740 8

Chekhov's latest biographer, Phillip Callow, uses existing biographies and translations to construct a lively narrative. He takes their reliability on trust, which is not always wise. While he claims to emphasise the love theme in Chekhov's life, a considerable portion of the book is devoted to his relationship to his family and to the press magnate, Suvorin. Callow paints a vivid picture of Chekhov's early life. He demonstrates how, without ever being autobiographical, Chekhov fed elements of his life into his works. Too much space, perhaps, is devoted to summarising content to the detriment of other important questions, such as social and political context and Chekhov's working processes as a dramatist. A closer examination of the various drafts of his plays would have revealed not only the development of his craft but of his thinking and attitudes.

Callow explores Chekhov's complex sexuality and the tensions between his sister, Masha, and Olga Knipper, whom he unexpectedly and secretly married. There is, however, an important omission: the hostile letter a distraught Masha wrote to Knipper, threatening to strangle her with her bare hands if she did not make Anton a good wife; instead she turned into a Natasha (*Three Sisters*). Olga walked on egg-shells to avoid such a role, but it is substantially as Natasha that Callow depicts her: she interferes with Chekhov's medical treatment and takes over. Yet Knipper was far too spontaneous to be as manipulative as Callow suggests. She knew that Chekhov longed to live in a theatrical milieu, what torture it was for him to be out of Moscow when rehearsals began. *The Cherry Orchard* apart, he never attended premières of any of his plays at the Art Theatre. Despite her heavy commitments, she spent weeks preparing a comfortable, little house she had found in Moscow. She was forced to abandon it because Masha did not like it, and there always had to be a room for Masha. The result was a move to a third-floor flat with stairs that Chekhov could negotiate only with difficulty. Callow does not refer to the hopes Chekhov and Knipper nurtured of having a "little half-German", although his account of Knipper's miscarriage, or ectopic pregnancy, in 1902 and the crisis that ensued is very full. Much about this period is, however, still obscure and Callow's account must be counted, in part, speculation.

Callow gives no real show of Chekhov's concern for Olga's career and his attempts to raise her spirits when she felt she had failed. There is little of the joy they shared. Even hours before his death Chekhov reduced her to helpless laughter. Callow's account of the marriage is almost uniformly grim — Knipper emerges as the "unsatisfactory" wife in contrast to Masha the "good" sister — the general Russian view.

The book is at its weakest when dealing with Chekhov and the Art Theatre. Callow uncritically recycles the ill-founded views of critics anxious to drive a wedge between Stanislavski and Chekhov. It is not true that Chekhov refused to give *Uncle Vanya* to the Art Theatre because he disapproved of Stanislavski's "naturalism". The adverse comments Callow quotes concerning *The Seagull* were a response to hearsay. After the fiasco of *The Seagull* in St Petersburg, Chekhov was ultra-sensitive to being misunderstood. But when he actually spent three days at rehearsal, he was, Nemirovich-Danchenko wrote to Stanislavski, "in raptures ... He soon understood how your *mise-en-scène* heightens the overall impression".


Chekhov: partial story

Later Chekhov suggested that Stanislavski's production plan for *Vanya* be published. Whatever the angry reactions, Chekhov acknowledged that the Art Theatre enshrined his artistic values. "I thank heaven that ... I finally came on such a wonderful island."

The account of the creation of *Three Sisters* is disappointing. While revising the play in Nice, Chekhov exchanged letters with Olga and others concerning crucial aspects of staging and cuts. These are ignored.

With *The Cherry Orchard* Callow perpetuates the legend of the Stanislavski/Chekhov rift. No one thought the play was a farce, not even Chekhov's wife and sister. "Stanislavski has ruined my play" — a favourite quote or half-quote, suggesting total dissension. But Chekhov was angry merely because he had been told Act IV was running 40 minutes while he insisted that it be played "in 12 minutes *maximum*" (his emphasis) — a theatrical absurdity. Chekhov's letters are littered with such reactions — "No one has read my play properly", "I shall never write for the theatre again" An awareness of context is essential in judging their seriousness. What finally mars this book is an absence of such awareness and an uncritical approach to a limited range of sources.

Jean Benedetti editea Dear Writer, Dear Actress: The Love Letters of Anton Chekhov and Olga Knipper. *Mehuen, £10.99.*

Witness to the madness of King George

The whisper of 18th-century women's voices, first heard in feminism's rediscovery of its roots with Claire Tomalin's *Mary Wollstonecraft* in 1974 is now amplified into a cheerful babel: Emma Hamilton, Mary Astell, Dora Jordan, the Lennox sisters, the Duchess of Devonshire, Elisabeth Shakelton — and now, Fanny Burney. Can we doubt that there are more clamouring to be heard? More courtly ladies; writers such as Maria Edgeworth, Charlotte Lennox, the cross-dressing thespian Charlotte Chark and loudest of all, that ugly, dynamic champion of the intellect and free love, Germaine de Stael.

This outpouring has a good deal to do with the ways in which historians now write up the century. The depiction of Georgian Britain as measured, elegant and moderate has given way to energetic recreations of medical horrors and bustling street life, of ecstatic idealism and widespread repression: an age of extremes, but in Roy Porter's memorable phrase, "a tonic time to be alive". Its heady consumerism appeals to our own concupiscent age, the liberal morality of its ruling class and its taste for celebrity offer delights for life-style obsessed readers. How much easier it seems (at first sight and reading) to identify with 18th-century voices than with those of the Victorians, with their inaccessible repressions, guilts and uncertainties. Lives of the almost forgotten Victorian women novelists that Virginia Woolf liked to memorialise would now find little favour with biographers or publishers. But it is a matter of

Stella Tillyard

FANNY BURNEY
By Kate Chisholm
Chatto & Windus, £20
ISBN 0 7011 6378 X

celebration when our interest in a period is high enough to make it popular and commercially viable. For the rewards, as Kate Chisholm's sympathetic and entertaining life of Fanny Burney show, can be great.

Chisholm's life is far more engaging than both the recent Freudian interpretation by Margaret Anne Doody and Roger Lonsdale's earlier, elegantly detached account of the Burney household. It manages also to do what many biographers have given up attempting: it encourages us to read the subject's work. This is particularly difficult in Burney's case because most of us encounter her first as a diarist — the lively, waspish misanthropic and snobbish Lady of the Bedchamber to Queen Charlotte. What Chisholm does is to downplay the diarist in favour of the dutiful daughter, loving sister, wife and mother and most importantly, author of four novels between 1778 and 1814.

Daughter of the relentless social climber and musician Charles Burney, Fanny's anonymous entry into the literary world with *Evelina* in 1778 was quickly smoothed by the approbation of her father's wide acquaintance, especially that of major cultural power brokers such as Dr Johnson, David Garrick and Joshua Reynolds. *Evelina* was a smash hit, its heroine the Bridget Jones of her moment and Chisholm's infectious enthusiasm for Burney's wit and her ability to catch a character in a few lines sent this reader, at any rate, searching for a copy untouched for 15 years.

Evelina was followed by the even more successful *Cecilia* and thereafter by *Camilla* and *The Wanderer*. In all her novels, Burney underscores her essentially conservative satire with a potentially subversive insistence that women learn "self-dependence". She anticipated and perhaps inspired Jane Austen's interest in class, money and the marriage market.

After the publication of *Cecilia* in 1782, her own life took several unforeseen and dramatic turns that contributed largely to her other literary life, as a diarist. In 1786 she became Second Keeper of the Robes to Queen Charlotte and, luckily for her reputation, she had a ring-side seat for the long spectacle of the King's madness of 1788-89 which she recorded (with some scrupulous censorship in deference to the feelings of the Queen) in her diary. It was this episode, in the absence of the much franker diary of Fulke Greville — which remained unpublished until 1930 — that ensured her posthumous fame.

Confirmed in her royalism and opposition to the French revolution by her sojourne at Court, Fanny married an aristocratic French emigre, General d'Arblay, and became a mother at the age of 42. Thereafter she see-sawed between England and France, was on hand to witness the aftermath of Waterloo and underwent a mastectomy. This operation is famous in the annals of medical history, partly by virtue of Burney's own graphic account, partly because the French surgeon's report also survives, but mostly because it is an horrific testimony to the power of the human body and spirit to endure what to us, in our anaesthetised times, is unimaginable torture. A knife was plunged into Fanny Burney's breast while she was fully conscious and she survived 20 minutes of cutting and scraping to remove the "dreadful gland" that had grown there. It is the consensus of doctors today that she probably did not have breast cancer, but cancer or no cancer, the next day, incredibly, she was drinking broth and she lived until she was 87.

Kate Chisholm's charming life, which wears its scholarship lightly and shows a becoming sense of proportion about its subject, brings us a much softer and more sympathetic Fanny Burney than we have encountered before. Best of al it persuades us of Burney's value as a writer and will send readers to her work with an anticipation of pleasure, which is exactly what a literary biography should do. Pity those Victorian lady novelists, then, whose unfashionable, fascinating voices are at present unheard.

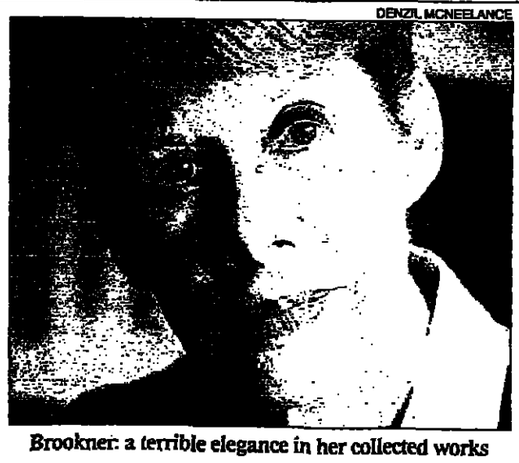
BONFIRE OF THE NINETIES
'Eight more hours in the Suicidal Freezer Unit'
the new tom wolfe

Eleven years after Bonfire of the Vanities, TOM WOLFE has written a new novel. Read it first in The Times Magazine
STARTING SATURDAY IN THE TIMES

The language of longing

Jane Shilling

FALLING SLOWLY
By Anita Brookner
Viking, £15.99
ISBN 0 670 88191 0


DENZIL MCNEELANCE
Brookner: a terrible elegance in her collected works

ANITA BROOKNER is an enigma. Extraordinarily prolific as a writer — this is her 18th novel — she has the quality, generally found among writers of a more mass-market style, of appearing, in effect, to write the same book over and over again. Her *leitmotifs* are those of the great 19th-century Romantics: melancholia, alienation, listlessness, resignation — shading (or so it can seem to an exasperated reader) to a self-indulgent undergraduate wail of "what is the *point* of everything?".

Exasperation is an emotion never far from the surface in a Brookner novel. (Tom Rivers, in *Falling Slowly*, the nicest, and one of the most convincing men she has created, trembles continually on the brink of it in his dealings with her difficult heroine, Miriam.) Her protagonists possess every advantage. They are good looking, highly intelligent, better than comfortably off. Sisters Beatrice and Miriam have lady-like occupations as a piano accompanist and a translator, but both live in flats within spitting distance of Harvey Nichols — not that either would ever do anything as unlady-like as spit. (Or go to Harvey Nichols.) Time, for them, is never fleeting, but always hangs heavy, in great looping, dusty folds. Youth, for Brookner's heroines, is not enjoyed, only mourned once it has passed.

Beatrice and Miriam Sharpe take different routes towards unhappiness. The products of a difficult childhood, the elder sister, Beatrice, seeks emotional solace in Romantic novels and reveries — never quite able to attach herself to the quotidian reality of a husband while Miriam, crosser, plainer and more rational, prefers a more calculated assault on the absence of love — a sensible marriage at 35 (it fails): a risky affair with a feckless man from far beyond her milieu. Courageous in their ways, these attempts at connection fail, leaving the sisters no intimacy beyond each other's.

Now, one might say, as Austen is for the Janeites, Brookner is for the Brookneriites. Her particular brand of superfine melancholy has its popular following. The best thing to do, if one finds oneself thinking that the remedy for her clever, under-employed women's hapless inanition would be a slap to the bottom, followed by a regime of violent physical activity, a bloody steak and half a bottle of burgundy daily, is simply to abandon her for something rather more to one's vulgar taste — Thackeray, say. Or *Bridget Jones's Diary*.

But this would be to underestimate the peculiar magnetism of Brookner's writing. Maddening, selfish, lacking in spirit (though not in character) as her heroines may be, there is a sense in which each succeeding novel is part of a vast, painstakingly assembled edifice: a long, and possibly hopeless, search for the means to a good life. It is an oeuvre with its own extreme elegance, and also a kind of gallantry, as admirable as it is terrible.

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TANGLED LOVE
Singer's last novel

Vintage port in a storm

Saul David takes tea with 19th-century opium smokers and brothel creepers

NO DOGS AND NOT MANY CHINESE
Treaty Port Life in China 1843-1943
By Frances Wood
John Murray, £25
ISBN 0 7195 5785 5

Set up in the wake of Britain's victory over China in the first Opium War of 1839-42, the earliest treaty ports were foreign-ruled settlements designed to open the Chinese hinterland to trade and Christian missionaries. By the turn of this century, France, America, Germany, Russia, Italy and Japan had also been granted territorial concessions. But Britain remained the dominant power and it is "British lives" in China that form the focus of this fascinating book.

The successful conclusion of the first Sino-British war — fought to prevent the Chinese Emperor from curtailing the illegal but lucrative trade in Indian-grown opium — led to the Treaty of Nanking. By its terms, the ports of Canton, Foochow, Amoy, Ningpo and Shanghai were opened to foreign residence and trade (while the island of Hong Kong was ceded to the British Crown "in perpetuity").

The author — Head of Chinese Collections in the British Library, with an extensive personal knowledge of China — is right to describe the treaty ports as a form of "semi-colonisation". But as her clever title suggests — and contrary to popular myth — the foreign settlers never actually put up signs in their municipal parks stating "No dogs or Chinese". The strict regulations about dress, however, meant that "most Chinese" were excluded.

Wood is particularly adept at relating what day to day life was like for foreign residents. In mid-19th-century Shanghai, for example, where water was "too dangerous to drink", the new arrivals were advised by a local British doctor that "a man's health is more secure with a moderate quantity of wine" per day ("from half to a bottle of French or German wine"), whereas "exercise was only to be contemplated during the winter and spring months".

The temptation for lonely bachelors to seek sexual gratification was especially hard to resist. Soon after arriving in Ningpo on consular service in the autumn of 1854, Robert Hart noted in his diary: "A couple of Chinawomen have been peeping in through my windows. I hope I may be able to control myself — Many temptations surround me." By 1865, he had three children by his Chinese mistress.

Towards the end of the book, Wood confirms that Shanghai's reputation as the fleshpot of the Far East was fully justified by quoting Christoper Isherwood. "The tired or lustful will find anything to gratify his desire," wrote the young novelist, who visited the city in the late 1930s. "If you want girls or boys, you can have them at all prices. If you want opium you can smoke it in the best company, served on a tray, like afternoon tea." Even Wallis Simpson, the future Duchess of Windsor, was said to have visited a brothel and been "taught perverse practices" during her brief stay in 1924.

The end finally came in January 1943 when Britain and America signed treaties to return all the remaining foreign concessions to the Chinese. The Japanese, who were then the de facto rulers of most of China, responded by interning the foreign residents, among them Eric Liddell, the "Flying Scotsman", and a young J. G. Ballard, author of *Empire of the Sun*.

This is a first-rate account of one of the more shameful (but never boring) episodes in our imperial history, balanced, superbly written and highly entertaining. That it relies entirely on published sources hardly seems to matter.

Saul David's The Homicidal Earl *is published by Little, Brown.*

WARNER BROS



Scene from the *Empire of the Sun*: the author J. G. Ballard was interned in China by the Japanese

The rivers of Babylon revisited

Malcolm Bradbury is captivated by the long-awaited translation of a Nobel prizewinning author's lost Yiddish novel, and less impressed by a new biography of the man



Shadows on the Hudson: Statue of Liberty — a symbol of hope in exile for immigrants

Isaac Bashevis Singer is one of the great writers of this century, as the Nobel Prize awarded to him in 1978 affirmed. A rabbi's son, he grew up in Warsaw and the Polish shtetls, and started a Polish career as a Yiddish writer. The threats of the Thirties, which dominated his work, took him on unhappy exile to America in 1935. His brother Israel Joshua, the more famous writer, had settled in New York, and helped Isaac make a struggling and bitter literary living, writing journalism under pseudonyms for the Yiddish newspaper *The Forward*. He produced important works of fiction (*Satan in Goray*, *The Family Moskat*). But not till he was translated into English (Saul Bellow translated a key story, *Gimpel the Fool*) did he win real attention, chiefly as a writer of short stories about the Polish past.

Just around this point, in 1957-58, he wrote — we now discover — a substantial novel in Yiddish, *Shadows on the Hudson*. It was produced for twice-weekly serialisation in *The Forward*, and only now has been rescued, translated, book-published, seven years after his death. Even for readers who followed his writings, it amounts to an amazing find. Here is his first attempt to deal on the grand scale with American materials, and the story is set at a crucial time: 1947-49, when the state of Israel does not yet exist, Holocaust shadows are everywhere, and the survivors who have made it to America are bewildered creatures, facing the pagan and vulgar American future without the social mechanisms that have held their religion together.

An important time in other ways. Jewish-American fiction, in the hands of Bellow, Malamud, Philip Roth and others, was just taking a dominant role in American literary culture. A fairly recent arrival, conservative in temper, writing in Yiddish, Singer stood both as influence and vital link between Old World and New. He kept to his roots and his rabbinical sources, strangely, even magically, building the bridge between the seemingly timeless (in fact precisely historical) peasant and ghetto world of Poland, with its folkloric tales, its supernaturalism and the secular, metropolitan world of American modernity.

Shadows on the Hudson proves a major work, a lengthy, at times over-extended, but a wonderful read. Set mostly in New York City and Florida, it deals with the displaced, a group of recent immigrants from Poland and Middle Europe still close to the old ways. It is written, too, in the old ways: measured, detailed, heavily furnished, like the many West Side apartments and odd American landscapes it moves through. It is realism laden with a Tolstoyan sense of historical substance and realistic truth: realism at the service of a purpose, seeing life in the aspect of history, memory, religious and moral verities.

SHADOWS ON THE HUDSON
By Isaac Bashevis Singer
Translated by Joseph Sherman
Hamish Hamilton, £16.99
ISBN 024 1139 406

ISAAC BASHEVIS SINGER
A Life
By Janet Hadda
OUP, £22.50
ISBN 0 195 08420 9

The book starts in sombre manner. A large dinner party at the West Side apartment of Boris Makaver, an orthodox, observant, financially unsuccessful Jew, introduces to a group of strange characters all haunted by the Holocaust, the senselessness of the world of history, the loss of spirit and the confusing signals of profane and vulgar America, which has rescued them and blessed some of them with wealth but is challenging their whole world. They belong, they feel, to a failing generation, robbed of the religious and moral reinforcements their ancestors possessed.

It wouldn't be Singer if the tale did not soon turn impish. When Dovid Grein begins his infinitely guilty affair with Makaver's twice married and assertive daughter Anna, lust is released, the will to believe is governed by the will to be, and complication and chaos ensue in many lives. Grien finds himself in a recurrent Singer situation, shuttled among three powerful women: wife, mistress, new lover. Slowly Singer unfolds the tale, which is packed with wonderful detail (Manhattan silent under snow, the madhouse of Jewish Florida), glorious characters (the rogue Jewish comedian, the conniving medium, the professorial man of reason, the Florida wives who are artists in staging a public row) striking turns of plot, and a haunting sense of the age. Singer's prose is precise and observant, his awareness of the fantastic splendid, his moral sense telling, and he writes close to the large human truths.

Coincidentally, a new biography of Singer appears. It has useful new material, but the author — a professor of Yiddish and a psychoanalyst — is no literary critic, and she has listened far too long to Singer's detractors. Yes, Singer (I knew him slightly) was an impish, mischievous, difficult, and (exactly like Grein here) adulterous man. As she rightly sees, there were two Singers: the conservative Jew who had almost guiltily become a literary Bohemian, yet saw himself as the courageous carrier of the Yiddish tradition, and the comical-fantastic writer beloved of American readers, creating his own world and past as a kind of world fairytale. Yet why not? Singer understood fiction and the play of prose, and he unlocked its magic. Both serious and impish he wrote of a world made urgent by religion and observance, yet also ironic, absurd. Hadda's therapeutic sobriety feels oddly remote from it all. Indeed, as she half-senses, it belongs . . . well, in a Singer novel.

A dictionary? You'd have to be crazy

Will Self

THE SURGEON OF CROWTHORNE
A Tale of Murder, Madness and the Love of Words
By Simon Winchester
Viking, £10
ISBN 0678 78626

This is almost my favourite kind of book: the work of social and intellectual history which through the oblique treatment of major developments manages to throw unusual light on humankind and its doings. *The Surgeon of Crowthorne* certainly manages this and what's more, Simon Winchester's effortlessly clear, spare prose is the perfect vehicle for the tale. Which is all by way of saying that you certainly don't need to be a sesquipedalian of any description to find this account of the compilation of the *Oxford English Dictionary* absolutely riveting.

Winchester structures his book somewhat like a thriller, or at any rate a reference version of *The Quest for Corvo*. He opens with the journey that the formidable architect of the Dictionary, Dr James Murray, made to the sleepy village of Crowthorne, in Berkshire, in the autumn of 1896. He was on his way to meet one of the hardest-working of the volunteers who had assisted in the creation of the *OED* thus far: a man who for nearly 20 years had provided Murray and his Oxford team with a stream of invaluable assistance. The man was Dr W. C. Minor, an American military surgeon, who, it transpired when Murray arrived at his destination, had been confined in the Broadmoor Asylum for the criminally insane for the previous 23 years.

Of course, the real story of the encounter between the two men was somewhat different — Murray did not arrive at his destination completely unaware of where he was going or of the condition Minor was in, but Winchester produces a many-layered account of the circumstances in such a way as to recall the "historical principles" upon which the *OED* itself was structured.

Dr W. C. Minor was the son of high-minded Yankee missionaries to Ceylon. Brought up frolicking among the scantily clad maidens of this paradisaical realm, Minor's insanity — when it later manifested itself — was inescapably tied to the riven relationship he had with his own sexuality. In a way Minor's debility — his delusions were plangently erotic — can be seen as a synecdoche of Victorian mores. Minor returned to the States, studied medicine at Harvard and then enlisted in the Union Army, just in time to become involved in one of the bloodiest and most barbaric of the Civil War's battles.

Winchester hypothesises that it may well have been an incident in which Minor was forced to use a hot iron to brand deserters from the Union Army, that first tipped him over the brink into full-blown insanity. But whatever the precise aetiology, Minor's behaviour after this incident became increasingly demented, until resident in Lambeth, South London, in 1873, Minor shot dead a man called George Merrit. Merrit, an ordinary working man on his way to the brewery for an early shift, was unknown to Minor: he just had the misfortune to become one of the ambulatory ghosts who were tormenting the American.

He was confined to Broadmoor, and might well have slumped into idiocy, were it not for the fact that he was the original polymath. Buried in his ruckled psyche was the mind of a first-class lexicographer.

And here Winchester veers off to take us on a canter through the history and origins of the dictionary. In a few, discursive chapters, he shines a bright light on the codification of the English language, demonstrating that while the *OED* may have been conceived as of an imperialist ambition, setting the limits of the language as if it were a territory, it became an exercise in democratising and inclusion. The fact that the *OED*'s definitions were historical meant that the language was reified as a palimpsest rather than an architectonic.

And Minor was the king of historical definitions. In his suite of cells at Broadmoor he built up an astonishing collection of books, books he plundered for the contextual definitions Dr Murray so desperately needed.

Winchester's book does many things. It gives us a portrait of the emergence of the modern tongue; an insight into Victorian mental health policies; and an evocation of a remarkable intellectual friendship between two men who were radically divided. It's a great shame that there isn't quite the right expression in English to describe Winchester's achievement, so *tour de force* will have to do.

Will Self's Tough Tough Toys for Tough Tough Boys *is published by Bloomsbury, priced £14.99.*

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CHANGING TIMES

Bargains of the week: a ramble in Cotswold countryside; the train way into Europe; Florida fly-drive

PACK YOUR BAGS

A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices.

BRITISH ISLES

CORONATION Street and more can be seen on a Granada Studios tour package available from Goldenrail and costing £99.50 with two nights' half-board at a three-star Manchester hotel. Details: 0161-238 5206.

■ A LIGHTHOUSE hotel near Stranraer in Scotland is offering two nights' dinner plus B&B for £160 through Crystal Premier Britain. Details: 0181-390 8513.

■ FORTE has a new family package called Liberty Breaks for its 82 Posthouse hotels this summer, with bargain deals for children under 16, newly equipped playrooms plus lunchtime entertainment and afternoon check-out on Sundays. Prices start from £34 a night. Details: 0345-404040.

■ WINTER FOLLY must be an appropriate name for a summer holiday cottage, given the recent weather, and a house with that name sleeping five in north Devon is among properties available at a discount from June 27 from Farm and Cottage Holidays. A week's rental now costs £262. Details: 01237-479698.

■ STROUD VALLEY, in a picturesque setting that belies its industrial past, can be explored on new walking tours with Compass Holidays. Two nights' B&B in a 17th-century Gloucestershire inn plus tour packs cost £130. Details: 01242-250642.

■ CROP CIRCLES will be explained at a weekend event with international experts, workshops and a Native American chief at Alton Barnes near Pewsey, Wiltshire, on July 18 and 19. Entry costs £25 a day and B&B from £25 a night for a double room can be booked through Marlborough's tourist centre. Details: 01380-860759 and 01672-513989.

EUROPE

FORGET the football and enjoy the Folies Bergère and Palais Royale at half price during the World Cup. To help you take advantage, Cresta Holidays has short breaks to Paris from £148 for three nights' B&B and return flights from Heathrow. Details: 0161-927 7000.

■ CYPRUS, the island of Aphrodite, will seem all the more romantic at the low price of £219 for a fortnight's First Choice self-catering holiday on offer from Co-op Travelcare, provided you can fly from Luton on Sunday. Details: 0541-500388.

■ MINORCA for a week with a flight from Gatwick on June 26 is on offer for £179 for a room only holiday from Page & Moy. Details: 0116-250 7116.

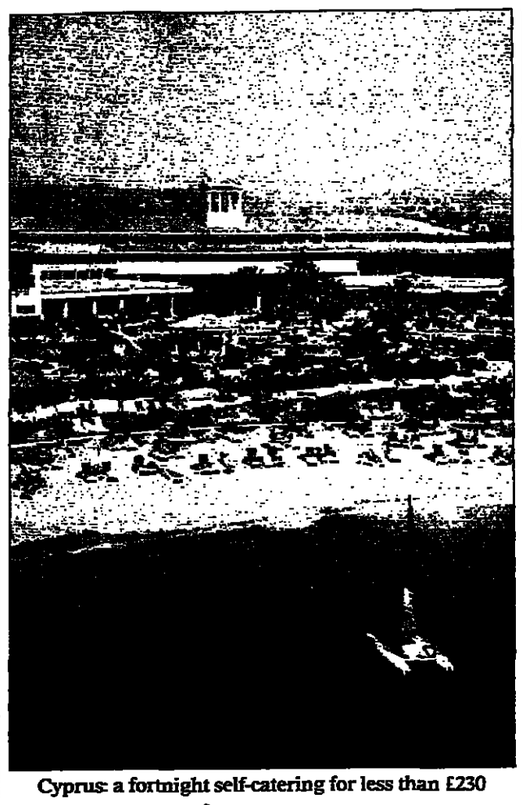
■ A CONVERTED consulate building in Valencia and a former monastery near Cadiz are among character hotels in a new Spanish guide from Room Service. Prices start from £51 a night for a double room, and the company can arrange flights and car hire. Details: 0171-636 6888.

■ CORSICA holidays are available at a £50 saving for a week from June 28 with VFB Holidays. Fly from Gatwick or Manchester and half-board at a Macinaggio hotel offering coastal and mountain walks costs £504 including car hire. Details: 01242-240310.

■ LET the train take the strain in Europe this summer if you are a student or under 26. Campus Travel offers a month's all-zones Inter-Rail package for £299, including London-Calais return, but book before the end of the month. Details: 0171-730 3402.

■ TURKEY and golf are not usually synonymous, but the Gloria Resort, Belek, boasts an 18-hole course, swimming pools, tennis courts and water sports and is available from £469 for a week in early July from Metak, with return flights from Gatwick or Manchester and half-board. Details: 0171-935 6961.

■ *SUMMER packages to Sicily* are being featured by Bellair Holidays, with the best prices in early July, when a week's B&B at a Taormina hotel will cost £460 with a Monday flight from Gatwick. Details: 0181-785 3266.



Cyprus: a fortnight self-catering for less than £230

LONG HAUL

LUXURY hotels are reluctant to promote special deals, especially on such interesting islands as Mauritius, but the new Residence has two weeks for the price of one from £1,209 available through Indian Ocean Connection and flying from Heathrow. Details: 01244-355320.

■ TORONTO flights are on offer from Flying Colours, leaving Gatwick on Monday at £279 return; from Newcastle on Wednesday costs £297. Return within two to three weeks. Details: 01204 434441.

■ A DUBAI stopover for free will be available in July and August for passengers flying with Emirates from Gatwick to selected cities in Africa, the Far East and Australia. The deal provides two nights' B&B, transfers and a city tour. Details: 0171-808 0808.

■ SUNRISE viewed from the summit of Mount Sinai, Luxor temples, Petra in Jordan, a crusader castle in Syria and Damascus are all included in a five-week tour from Cairo to Istanbul in a customised Mercedes-Benz, at a 35 per cent discount from Dragoman. The trip starts on July 3 and costs £515 plus £200 for accommodation and meals. Flights extra. Details: 01728-861133.

■ KERKENNAH, off the Tunisian coast, boasts superb beaches and is very peaceful. Together with the maritime history and Islamic architecture of Mahdia on the mainland, the island features in deals from Panorama. Details: 01273-206531

■ FLORIDA deals continue with Lunn Poly offering a week's Airtours fly-drive holiday from Glasgow on June 25 for £199. Details from Lunn Poly Holiday Shops.

● *All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room unless otherwise stated.*

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FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Cleveland 9 Kansas City 1 Minnesota 8 Detroit 5, Tampa Bay 4 Toronto 3; Baltimore 2 New York Yankees 0; Boston 6 Chicago White Sox 1, Oakland 9 Texas 7; Anaheim 3 Seattle 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Milwaukee 11 Chicago Cubs 2, Arizona 5 Cincinnati 1 New York Mets 2 Montreal 0 Philadelphia 8 Pittsburgh 7: Atlanta 7 Florida 0; St Louis 9 Houston 4, San Diego 10 Los Angeles 6, San Francisco 5 Colorado 3

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP. First day of four: Trent Bridge: Leicestershire 198 (D I Stevens 66), Nottinghamshire 57-2. First day of three: Lensbury: Middlesex 84-1 v Worcestershire.

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of two: Warrington: Cheshire 233-9 and 181 (I Cockbain 54, C J Ellison 9-80), Cornwall 239-9 and 167-9 (J P Kent 53 A J Murphy 6-43) Match drawn. First day of two. Longton: Staffordshire 232-8 (L Potter 95, P E Wellings 68); Buckinghamshire 83 (A Richardson 5-26, S D Horsfall 4-28) and 6-0 Wisbech: Cambridgeshire v Northumberland, no play

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Repton 58 Shrewsbury 59-1 Clifton 126 King Edward's, Bath 127-5

CYCLING

BIEL: Tour of Switzerland. Prologue time trial (5 6km). 1, L Jalabert (Fr) 6min 35 09sec, 2. P Gaumont (Fr) at 2sec, 3, J Ullrich (Ger) 4, 4, E Dekker (Holl) same time 5, B Boscardin (Switz) 5 6 L Dufaux (Switz) same time, 7, D Millar (GB) 7, 8, R Meier (Switz) same time. 9, B Zberg (Switz) 9, 10, D Nardello (It) 11 Second stage (Biel to Villars-sur-Ollon, 182 2km) 1, D Rebellin (It) 4hr 42min 54sec, 2, F Casagrande (It) at 41sec. 3, B Zberg (Switz) same time; 4, S Garzelli (It) same time 5, Jalabert same time, 6, P Luttenberger (Austria) same time 7, P Tonkov (Russ) same time 8 A Noe (It) same time, 9, W Belli (It) same time 10, I Gotti (It) same time

BOWLS

EBA TOP FOUR CHAMPIONSHIP: Surrey 30 Hampshire 21

KENSEY VALE. English championship: Cornwall 25 Dorset 23

MIDLAND COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Derbyshire 140 Worcester 104

TORQUAY English Riviera Open. Men: Singles: Third round. D Gunstone bt H Briscoe 21-18 J Evans bt R Mayer 21-16 J Pidcock bt R Pinder 21-4; E Roberts bt D Richardson 21-10 R Wright bt D Emby 21-14, H Pritchard bt J Coalus 21-18, W Cotter bt D Morgan 21-11, A Silman bt L Weston 21-6. R Matthews bt G Lummas 21-14, L Popri bt D Stone 21-7, D Summers bt G Witcombe 21-18; P Pull bt P Downs 21-14, R Tolchard bt P Hackett 21-2, R Reader bt D Deakin 21-10, T Edwards bt M Hurse 21-17. C Koodwell bt F Brugden 21-9 Fourth round: Evans bt Gunstone 21-4; Pidcock bt Roberts 21-13. Wright bt Pritchard 21-16 Silman bt Cotter 21-18, Matthews bt Popri 21-15. Pull bt Summers 21-20 Tolchard bt Reader 21-19. Edwards bt Koodwell 21-20 Pairs. Semi-finals: R Johnson and D Denison bt D Lane and B Carnell 20-18: M Northall and K Chedgzoy bt H Lummas and P Moule 21-15 Final Johnson and Denison bt Northall and Chedgzoy 24-16

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Buenos Aires 36 France XV 22 (in Buenos Aires)

TENNIS

ROEHAMPTON. Wimbledon qualifying tournament: Men: First round. M Hill (Aus) bt A Cellen (Arg) 6-4. 6-3, M Dekraver (Hol) bt D Furmanski (Arg) 6-1, 6-5; D Dilucia (US) bt V Sanon (Ivory Coast) 6-4, 6-1, Y Ishii (Japan) bt E Grossi (It) 6-4, 6-1, V Snyman (SA) bt H Levy (Isr) 6-3, 6-4; S Pescosolido (It) bt T Ho (US) 6-1, 6-0 B Macphie (US) bt J Knowle (Aus) 6-1, 7-5; R Wassen (Holl) bt A Parmar (GB) 6-3 7-6 D Flach (US) bt F Fetterlein (Den) 6-3, 6-3, M Godwin (SA) bt F Jonsson (Swe) 7-6, 6-3 A Radulescu (Ger) bt R Jabali (Br) 6-3 6-1 O Sela (Isr) bt A Olhovskiy (Russ) 6-3, 6-2 M Bhupathi (India) bt A Fahlke 6-1, 6-2, F Linvon (Swe) bt J Sekulov (Aus) 6-3, 6-2 M Sell (US) bt C Haggard (SA) 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 W McGuire (US) bt G Carraz (Fr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 M Kohlmann (Ger) bt T Spinks (GB) 7-6, 6-3 A Zingman (Arg) bt E Erlich (Isr) 3-6, 6-4, 6-4. P Tramacchi (Aus) bt Holmes (Aus) 6-2 4-6, 6-4 D Skoch (Cz) bt J Stasiak (Aus) 6-4 6-4 B Behrens (US) bt L Friedl (Cz) 7-6, 7-6, N Marques (Por) bt R Matheson (GB) 7-6. 6-3 P Gauthier (Fr) bt J Krostak (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-4 A Hernandez (Mex) bt S Randjelovic (Aus) 6-4, 6-2; J Fox (GB) bt A Ferreira (Br) 6-4. 7-6

NOTTINGHAM OPEN: Singles: Second round S Draper (Aus) bt C Pioline (Fr) 6-3 1-1 (default, verbal abuse)

EASTBOURNE Direct Line championships: First round: F-A Guse (Aus) bt S Pitkowski (Fr) 7-5, 6-3, I Spirlea (Rom) bt R Grande (It) 6-3 4-6, 6 4 M Soma (Sp) bt T Panova (Russ) 6-7 6-3. 6-1 E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt N Tauziat (Fr) 6-2, 4-6 8-6 Second round: A Sanchez Vicario (Sp) bt T Tanasugarn (Thai) 6-2, 7-5 J Novotna (Cz) bt N Dechy (Fr) 6-2, 6-2 N Zvereva (Bela) bt V Williams (US) 6-2, 6-1, Spirlea bt Guse (Aus) 6-0, 7-5, S Williams (US) bt A Sugiyama (Japan) 6-2 7-5. S Graf (Ger) bt S Smith (GB) 6-1 6-2; A Kournikova (Russ) bt M de Swardt (SA) 6-4, 6-1 M Serna (Sp) bt E Likhovtseva (Russ) 6-4 7-5

ROSMALEN, Holland Rosmalen Open. Men: First round: R Krajicek (Holl) bt R Fromberg (Aus) 7-6, 4-6, 7-6 J van Lottum (Holl) bt N Kiefer (Ger) 7-5, 6-4 M Damm (Cz) bt V Spadea (US) 6-4 7-5 A Medvedev (Ukr) bt A Calatrava (Sp) 6-2 6-2 P Wessels (Holl) bt J-M Gambill (US) 6-4 6-4, P Rafter (Aus) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-3 4-6 6-4 D van Scheppingen (Holl) bt G Kuerten (Br) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 S Campbell (US) bt Y Kafelnikov (Russ) 7-5, 6-2 J Siemerink (Holl) bt M Rosset (Switz) 6-3 7-5 S Schalken (Holl) bt K Alami (Mor) 6-0, 6-1 P Haarhuis (Holl) bt J Knippschild (Ger) 6-3, 6-1 G Raoux (Fr) bt T Johansson (Swe) 6-3 6-4, K Kucera (Slovakia) bt H Dreekmann (Ger) 6-3, 6-2 K Carlsen (Den) bt R Sluiter (Holl) 5-7, 6-3 6-3 Women: First round: T Snyder (US) bt S Kleinova (Cz) 6-0 4-6, 6-1 A Gersi (Cz) bt K Hrdlickova (Cz) 6-1, 6-4 S Appelmans (Bel) bt C Torrens-Valero (Sp) 6-2, 6-1 C Rubin (US) bt A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-1, 6-4; A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) bt S T Wang (Taiwan) 6-3, 6-2 M Oremans (Holl) bt D van Roost (Bel) 6-3, 7-6 K Boogert (Holl) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-1 6-2 R Dragomir (Rom) bt J Halard-Decugis (Fr) 7-6, 6-3 G L Garcia (Sp) bt F Labat (Arg) 6-4 6-1 Y Yoshida (Japan) bt D Chladkova (Cz) 7-5, 6-4; K Po (US) bt A Glass (Ger) 7-5, 7-6 L Golarsa (It) bt A S Lorenzo (Sp) 6-2 6-3 P Wartusch (Ger) bt C Cristea (Rom) 7-6 1-6 6-4 Second round: J Halard-Decugis (Fr) bt T Snyder (US) 6-2, 6-0, K Boogert (Holl) bt C Morariu (US) 4-6 6-2, 7-5 S Appelmans (Bel) bt A Gersi (Cz) 6-3, 6-2 Y Yoshida (Japan) bt C Rubin (US) 7-5 6-4 G L Garcia (Sp) bt P Wartusch (Ger) 4-6 7-6, 7-6 M Oremans (Holl) bt A Dechaume-Balleret (Fr) 7-6 6-7, 6-2 S Testud (Fr) bt L Golarsa (It) 6-3 6-4 K Po (US) bt 1-A Coetzer (SA) 6-4, 6-2

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET

Second Cornhill Test match

11 0, first day of five 90 overs minimum

LORD'S: England v South Africa

Britannic Assurance county championship

11 0, second day of four. 104 overs minimum

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Yorkshire

BASINGSTOKE: Hampshire v Derbyshire

CANTERBURY: Kent v Nottinghamshire

BATH: Somerset v Essex

WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

12 0, second day of four. 104 overs minimum

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Leicestershire

NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Middlesex

11 0, second day of four, 104 overs minimum

HOVE: Sussex v Warwickshire

12 0 first day of four, 104 overs minimum

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire v Surrey

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Third day of four: Trent Bridge: Nottinghamshire v Leicestershire Middlesbrough: Yorkshire v Durham. Second day of three: Pantag: Glamorgan v Essex Finchampstead: Hampshire v Derbyshire Lensbury: Middlesex v Worcestershire Taunton: Somerset v Kent The Oval: Surrey v Northamptonshire Coventry and North Warwickshire: Warwickshire v Sussex

MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of two: Mount Wise, Plymouth: Devon v Cheshire.

OTHER SPORT

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Sheffield v Reading (7 45)

TENNIS: Wimbledon qualifiers (in Roehampton). Nottingham Open Direct Line Championships (in Eastbourne)

YESTERDAY'S RACING RESULTS

Royal Ascot

Going: good to soft

2.30 JERSEY STAKES (Group III 3-Y-O £38,715 7f)

DIKTAT br c Warning - Arvola (Sheikh Mohammed) 8-10 D Holland (3-1 fav, Richard Evans's nap) 1.

Bold Edge ch c Beveled - Daring Ditty (Lady Whent and Friends) 8-10 Dane O'Neill (14-1) 2.

Lovers Knot b f Groom Dancer - Nemea (Cheveley Park Stud) 8-7-c-8-8 W R Swinburn (8-1) 3.

ALSO RAN 4 Bold Fact. 6 Bianconi (5th), *12 Volontiers. 14 Ho Leng, 16 La-Faah.* Merlin's Ring, 20 Daring Derek (4th), 33 Jalaab. Lone Piper, 40 Headhunter (6th), 66 Qilin, 200 Lorenzo, One Dinar 16 ran. NR: Rabi 2l, ¾l, 3½l, ¾l, 3l D Loder at Newmarket Tote: £3 60, £1 80, £3 80, £2.20 DF. £30 50. Trio £135 40 CSF. £39 69

3.05 QUEEN MARY STAKES (Group III 2-Y-O fillies £29,775 5f)

BINT ALLAYL b f Green Desert - Society Lady (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) 8-8 L Dettori (2-1 fav) 1.

Pipalong b f Pips Pride - Limpopo (T Bennett) 8-8 K Fallon (9-4) 2.

Coralita b f Night Shift - Mumble Peg (Mrs J Magnier) 8-8 M J Kinane (12-1) 3.

ALSO RAN 7 Foranta, 9 Atlantic Destiny, 14 She-Wolff (5th), 25 Damalis (4th), Karisal, 33 Amazing Dream, *50 Black Rocket*, Inca Tern, Little Movie Star (6th), Tamara, 66 Aubrieta, Ivory's Promise, Smittenby, 100 Lightning Blaze 17 ran 2l, 3l, 1¼l, ¾l, 1½l. M Channon at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £2.40. £1 30, £1 30, £3.80 DF. £2.40. Trio £14.40 CSF £5.52

3.45 CORONATION STAKES (Group I, 3-Y-O fillies £127,000 1m)

EXCLUSIVE ch f Polar Falcon - Exclusive Order (Cheveley Park Stud) 9-0 W R Swinburn (5-1) 1.

Zalaiyka b f Royal Academy - Zanadiyka (HH Aga Khan) 9-0 G Mosse (5-4 fav) 2.

Winona b f Alzao - My Potters (Lady Clague) 9-0 J Murtagh (16-1) 3.

ALSO RAN 6 *La Nuit Rose* (5th). 16 Daunting Lady. Lady In Waiting (4th). Soeur Ti (6th) 20 Crazee Mental, Nanoushka. 9 ran NR Grazia 1¼l, ½l, hd, nk ¾l M Stoute at Newmarket Tote £5 70, £1 80 £1 20, £3 80 DF £4 10 Trio £23 50 CSF £9 42

4.20 ROYAL HUNT CUP (Handicap. £63 100 1m)

REFUSE TO LOSE ch c Emarati - Petrol (J C Smith) 4-7-11 J Tate (20-1) 1.

Fly To The Stars b c Bluebird - Rise And Fall (Godolphin) 4-9-11 L Dettori (6-1 fav) 2.

Prince Of My Heart ch c Prince Daniel - *Blue Room (G J Hicks) 5-8-6* T Quinn (40-1) 3.

Sugarfoot ch c Thatching - Norpella (Mrs D Wright) 4-7-12 R Ffrench (40-1) 4.

ALSO RAN 11 For Your Eyes Only. 12 Darnaway, Right Wing, 14 Gulf Shaadi, Raheen, Rock Falcon, 16 Bold Words, 20 Crumpton Hill, Hornbeam, Hunters Of Brora (6th), King Of Tunes, Latalomne, Showboat, Silca Blanka, Supercal, 25 Consort, Labeq (5th) Strazo, Topatori, 33 *Cayman Kai, Chief Monarch, Concer Un,* Kayvee, Sharp Hat, 50 Lionize, Omaha City, 66 Zugudi, 100 Silver Prey 32 ran. 1½l, 2½l, ¾l, 1l, 1¾l J Eustace at Newmarket. Tote £20 10, £3 80, £1 90, £13.00, £11.60 DF £40 60 Trio £1,485 60. CSF £100 13 Tricast £4,500 15

4.55 QUEEN'S VASE (Group III. 3-Y-O £35,725. 2m 45yd)

MARIDPOUR b c Shernazar - Mandana (HH Aga Khan) 8-11 W R Swinburn (6-1) 1.

Laurentide b c Pleasant Colony - Northern Sunset (Mrs V Kraft Payson) 8-11 W Ryan (20-1) 2.

Capri ch c Generous - Island Jamboree (HRH Prince Salman) 8-11 K Fallon (11-8 fav) 3.

ALSO RAN: 5 Sinon (4th), 6 Star Crystal, 8 Francis Bay, 9 Wales (6th), 25 Churlish Charm (5th). 8 ran Sh hd, 1¾l, 1¾l, 1½l, 1¾l M Stoute at Newmarket Tote: £8 20 £2.00, £4.00, £1.10 DF £89.90 CSF £103 49.

5.30 BESSBOROUGH STAKES (Handicap £29,700 1m 4f)

GREEK PALACE b c Royal Academy - Grecian Sea (Lord Weinstock) 4-9-8 W R Swinburn (9-1) 1.

Sabadilla b c Sadler's Wells - Jasmina (Sheikh Mohammed) 4-9-11 L Dettori (100-30 fav) 2.

Winged Hussar b h In The Wings - Akila (Dundalk Racing Club) 5-9-1 J Murtagh (12-1) 3.

Shaft Of Light gr g Sharrood - Reflection (The Queen) 6-9-2 D Harrison (12-1) 4.

ALSO RAN 9 Ganga, Hajr, 10 Subtle Influence, 14 Better Offer (6th), Dream Of Nurmi (5th) Generous Libra, 16 Henry Island, Present Arms, 30 Leading Spirit, Monitor, Star Precision, 25 High Intrigue, Sausalito Bay, 33 Scattergun, Supply And Demand, 50 Willie Conquer 20 ran 1¼l, *8l, 3l, 1½l, 1½l M Stoute at Newmarket.* Tote. £18 50, £3 20, £1 40, £3 80, £3 20 DF £20 60 CSF: £35 39 Trio £225 40 Tricast £361 97.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £103,106.26 carried forward to Royal Ascot today).

Placepot: £15.80.

Quadpot £9.30.

Hamilton Park

Going: soft (good to soft in places).

2.10 (1m 65yd) 1, Miss Bussell (J D Smith, 10-11 fav); 2, Temper Lad (5-1) 3. Torianna (33-1) 7 ran ¾l, 1½l B Hills Tote £1 70. £1.00, £5 70 DF £3 50 CSF: £6.36.

2.45 (1m 1f 36yd) 1, Nobby Barnes (Kim Tinkler, 5-1), 2, High Premium (7-2), 3. Swan Island (14-1) Katie Komaite 5-2 jt-fav 6 ran. 1½l, 2½l E Incisa. Tote £4 40, £2.10, £2.40 DF £5 60 CSF. £19 83

3.20 (5f 4yd) 1, Sweet As A Nut (J D Smith, 5-2), 2, Dispol Clan (7-4 fav), 3. Red Symphony (2-1). 6 ran. NR: Risky Experience. Nk, 6l C Dwyer Tote £3 10, £1 80, £1.20 DF £3 70 CSF £6 39

3.55 (5f 4yd) 1, Souperficial (Kim Tinkler, 5-1). 2, Henry The Hawk (7-4 fav), 3, Dona Filipa (9-2). 8 ran Hd. 1½l E Incisa. Tote £3 60, £3.60, £1.20, £1.70 DF £3 40 CSF: £13 14

4.30 (6f 5yd) 1. Naissant (J D Smith, 8-1), 2 Mister Westsound (11-2), 3, Jeffrey *Anotherred (9-4 fav)* 10 ran ½l, 1l M Wane Tote £13 50, £3 60, £2 00, £1 40 DF £23 20 Trio £25 20 CSF £48 24 Tricast £119 13

5.05 (1m 5f 9yd) 1, Urgent Reply (J Gotobed, 10-11 2, Old Hush Wing (2-1 fav), 3, Maurangi (3-1) 5 ran 1½l, 7l C Dwyer Tote £6 50, £1 10, £1 60 DF £6 60 CSF £28 12

Placepot £34 20

Quadpot: £12 10

Wolverhampton

Going standard

2.20 (1m 4f) 1, Soden (S Whitworth, 9-1) 2, By Joy (4-1), 3, Welcome Lu (14-1) Imperial Glen 11-4 fav 9 ran 3½l, 2½l T Mills Tote £8 70, £1 60, £3 00, £15 90 DF £50 10 CSF. £43 61 Tricast £472 79 Trio £65 10 (part won pool of *£41.29 carried forward to 3 45 Royal* Ascot today)

2.55 (2m 46yd) 1, Mazzelmo (Anthony Bond, 12-1), 2, Monaco Gold (6-1), 3, *Time Can Tell (7-1)* Benfleet 9-4 fav 8 ran 2½l, 10l A Bailey Tote £24 20, £3 20, £1 10, £5 60 DF £36 20 CSF £76 31

3.30 (6f) 1, *Dreaming (G Duffield, 4-7 fav)*, 2, Flon (8-1), 3, Heathyards Tipple (20-1) 9 ran. 7l, 5l M Prescott Tote £1 90; £1 20, £2 10, £3 80 DF, £3 30 Trio. £48 10 (part won, pool of £31.20 carried forward to 3.45 Royal Ascot today) CSF £6.24

4.05 (5f) 1, Mangus (S Whitworth, 8-1); 2, Aljaz (6-1), 3, General Equation (14-1) Dominant Air 7-4 fav 8 ran. 1l, 2l K Cunningham-Brown Tote £14 80, £3 30, £1 90, £2 00 DF £13 10 CSF £52.78 Tricast £620 68

4.40 (5f) 1, Arbor Ealis (N Adams, 12-1), 2, Five Ways Flyer (9-4), 3, Just Sunday (5-1) Pride Of Londubh 6-4 fav 7 ran NR, Risk One Farthing 4l, 1¾l, H Howe. Tote £13.30 £7 80, £1 30. DF: £31 50 CSF: £35 81.

5.15 (1m 1f 79yd) 1, Shipley Glen (G Duffield, 4-7 fav), 2. Lycian (7-2), 3, *Nouveau Cheval (4-1) 8 ran 1½l, 8l M* Prescott. Tote £1.60; £1 30, £1.10, £2 80 DF £2.30 CSF £3.78 Tricast £6 49.

Placepot £549.20.

Quadpot £19.60.

Nottingham

Going: good

6.40 (1m 6f 15yd) 1, Salska (N Callan, 12-1), 2 Siberian Mystic (11-4 fav), 3 Mayfung Mayhem (11-1) 12 ran NR Pardan 4l ½l A Streeter Tote £24 60 £3 70, £1 30 £4 90 DF £77 00 Trio £165 00 CSF £43 60 Tricast £363 13

Bary sets sights on Longchamp

CROCO ROUGE, the Pascal Bary-trained French Derby second, was among 11 acceptors for the group one Grand *Prix de Paris at Longchamp* on Sunday at yesterday's second acceptance stage. Godolphin's *Prix Jean Prat winner*, Almutawakel, is one of three British acceptors with Barry Hills's Prolix and John Dunlop's Rabah, who made all the running to win the Predominate Stakes at Goodwood last month.

Two British withdrawals were Chester House, second in the group two Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot on Tuesday, and Alec Stewart's Mutamam. Aidan O'Brien has left in his Derby disappointment Second Empire and Desert Fox, who was unable to run at Royal Ascot on Tuesday because of travel difficulties.

RIPON

THUNDERER

2.10 Creon. 2.45 No Warning. 3.20 Lago Di Varano. 3.55 Julies Jewel. 4.30 Gilling Dancer. 5.05 Needwood Spirit. 5.40 Three For A Pound.

GOING SOFT (HEAVY IN PLACES) SIS

DRAW 5F-6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST

2.10 MASHAM MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,815 1m 2f) (8 runners)

1 (8) BARON LAZLO [illegible] 9-0 Dean McKeown –
2 (6) 0 BREVITY 64 [illegible] 9-0 G Hind –
3 (2) 33 CREON 17 [illegible] 9-0 O Urbina 82
4 (7) 0 DAN HOI 17 [illegible] 9-0 G Duffield 75
5 (3) 3-00 GENERAL MOTOCK 17 [illegible] 9-0 J Weaver 80
6 (4) 30-0 SADDLERS' ROSE 17 [illegible] 9-0 J D Smith (3) 81
7 (5) FOUND AT SEA [illegible] 8-9 R Perham –
8 (1) POKUSSION [illegible] 8-9 D Mernagh (7) –

1-2 Creon 9-2 Brevity 7-1 Saddlers' Rose 12-1 General Motock 20-1 Found At Sea 33-1 Baron Lazlo, Dan Hoi, Pokussion

2.45 RICHMOND CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O. £5,838 6f) (2)

1 (1) 11 NO WARNING 6 (D,S) M Prescott 9-5 G Duffield 95
2 (2) 134 BON AMI 10 (S) J Berry 9-11 P Bradley (7) 97

1-4 No Warning, 3-1 Bon Ami

3.20 MIDDLEHAM HANDICAP (£3,501. 5f) (8)

1 (4) 6042 LAGO DI VARANO 6 (V,CD) [illegible] 10-0 D McKeown 83
2 (5) 0002 SWAN AT WHALLEY 32 (D,G,S) [illegible] 9-0 T Lucas 76
3 (1) 0520 CAUTION 8 (F) [illegible] 9-13 J Weaver 76
4 (6) 0-12 PLEASURE TIME 20 (V,D,F,S) [illegible] 9-13 A Clark 80
5 (7) 0-00 ANTONIA'S CHOICE 14 (D,S) [illegible] 9-4 C Lowther 74
6 (3) 00-0 TWO WILLIAMS 45 (D,S) [illegible] 8-12 Dale Gibson 69
7 (8) 0040 SOUTHERN DOMINION 17 (D,F,G,S) [illegible] 7-12 D Mernagh (7) 77
8 (2) -604 TINKER'S SURPRISE 17 (D,F) [illegible] 7-10 L Charnock 68

3-4 Lago Di Varano 7-2 Swan At Whalley 5-1 Pleasure Time 6-1 Caution 8-1 Southern Dominion 10-1 Antonia's Choice, Tinker's Surprise 20-1 Two Williams

3.55 RL DAVISON & TORCH MOTOR POLICIES AT LLOYDS HANDICAP (3-Y-O £5,836 1m) (8)

1 (2) 434- CANADIAN PUZZLER 244 [illegible] 9-7 A Culhane 97
2 (1) 3063 SWEET REWARD 5 [illegible] 9-6 R Perham 79
3 (4) 4-20 PASS THE REST 19 [illegible] 9-3 G Hind 84
4 (5) 2002 JULIES JEWEL 10 (S) [illegible] 9-1 J Weaver 95
5 (3) -434 FREE OPTION 17 [illegible] 9-0 A Clark 76
6 (7) -233 WORTH THE EFFORT 12 [illegible] 8-13 D Biggs 90
7 (8) 5-05 EMPIRE GOLD 27 [illegible] 8-8 J Fortune 76
8 (6) 2-06 HIT THE SPOT 10 [illegible] G Duffield 76

7-2 Julies Jewel 4-1 Pass The Rest 9-2 Empire Gold 11-2 Sweet Reward 7-1 Canadian Puzzler, Free Option 8-1 Worth The Effort 10-1 Hit The Spot

4.30 BEAUMONTS INSURANCE LADIES DERBY HANDICAP (Amateurs: £2,614. 1m 4f 60yd) (10)

1 (9) 2020 SUMMERHILL SPECIAL 5 (CD,F,G,S) D Barker 7-11-7 Emma Ramsden 60
2 (4) -502 BILLY NOMAITE 15 Mrs S Smith 4-11-4 Sarah Bosley 65
3 (2) 5010 TEN PAST SIX 13 (C,F,G) [illegible] 6-11-4 Pauline Robson 64
4 (7) .002 KINGS CAY 17 (CD,F,G,S) T Easterby 7-10-10 Fiona Wilson (5) 68
5 (8) 5054 AJDAR 14 (D) [illegible] Diana Jones 60
6 (5) 6005 NOSEY NATIVE 13 (CD,F,S) J Pearce 5-9-7 Lydia Pearce 59
7 (6) 0-02 SAINT ALBERT 15 [illegible] Susannah Samworth (3) 49
8 (1) 0052 GILLING DANCER 10 (F) P Calver 5-9-5 Fiona Needham 51
9 (10) 0-61 MR MORIARTY 12 (D,G) S Bowring 7-9-2 Margaret Morris (3) 53
10 (6) 6465 JOLI FILLE 23 [illegible] Carol Ann Williams (5) 45

4-1 Mr Moriarty 9-2 Summerhill Special 5-1 Nosey Native 6-1 Billy Nomaite, Saint Albert, 7-1 Kings Cay. 8-1 Gilling Dancer 14-1 others

5.05 LEVY BOARD HANDICAP (3-Y-O. £3,501: 1m 4f 60yd) (7)

1 (7) 0-11 ALTITUDE 5 (D,S) M Prescott 9-9 (5ex) G Duffield 91
2 (4) 1132 CINDER HILLS 13 (CD,S) M W Easterby 9-7 R Winston (5) 87
3 (1) 4003 NEEDWOOD SPIRIT 7 (V) B Morgan 9-2 Dean McKeown 81
4 (3) -440 STONE BECK 17 J Jefferson 9-1 J Fortune 65
5 (6) 1151 ARDLEIGH CHARMER 6 (G,S) C Dwyer 8-13 (5ex) G Hind 75
6 (5) 5221 CHLO-JO 3 (S) M Brittain 8-10 (5ex) D Mernagh (7) 68
7 (2) -401 SEMI CIRCLE 15 (B,D,G,S) T Easterby 8-2 L Charnock 67

5-4 Altitude, 5-1 Cinder Hills, Ardleigh Charmer, 7-1 Chlo-Jo, 8-1 Semi Circle, 12-1 Needwood Spirit, 14-1 Stone Beck

5.40 BEDALE CLASSIFIED STAKES (£2,759: 1m 2f) (7)

1 (1) 4100 THREE FOR A POUND 19 (G,S) J Glover 4-8-13 J Fortune 81
2 (7) 0600 AFRICAN SUN 17 M Chapman 5-8-11 N Pollard (7) 74
3 (3) 2-55 FLOATING CHARGE 42 J Fanshawe 4-8-11 J Weaver 69
4 (6) 0-40 GREENAWAY BAY 17 (F) W Musson 4-8-11 G Hind 71
5 (2) 5032 POLAR CHAMP 2 (V,D,F,S) S Woods 5-8-11 G Duffield 75
6 (4) 02-0 TROJAN RISK 15 (D,F,S) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-11 A Culhane 69
7 (5) /600 FAIRY RING 2 (B) R Whitaker 4-8-8 Dean McKeown 63

5-2 Floating Charge, 3-1 Three For A Pound, Polar Champ. 4-1 Trojan Risk, 8-1 Greenaway Bay, 33-1 African Sun Fairy Ring.

SOUTHWELL

THUNDERER

2.20 Elton Ledger. 2.55 Errant. 3.30 The Nurse. 4.05 Muara Bay. 4.40 Martindale. 5.15 Captain Jones.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

2.20 BORA BORA STAKES (£2,192: 6f) (6 runners)

1 4310 ICE AGE 17 (B,CD,F) R Williams 4-9-8 Paul Eddery 5
2 2050 ELTON LEDGER 7 (CD,F) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-5 P McCabe (3) 3
3 0000 HAWA AL NASAMAAT 5 (D,F) M Brittain 6-9-2 G Bardwell 2
4 -600 INFLATION 41 J Leigh 4-8-13 J Quinn 6
5 0251 *LOBUCHE 7 (D,S) M Chapman 3-8-12* N Pollard (7) 1
6 2346 FEARLESS 3 M Prescott 3-8-6 C Nutter 4

6-4 Lobuche, 3-1 Elton Ledger, 4-1 Ice Age 5-1 Fearless, 14-1 others

2.55 BALI CLAIMING STAKES (£2,248: 1m 3f) (9)

1 64 BE BRAVE 6 T Etherington 8-10-0 O Pears 5
2 0423 KI CHI SAGA 20 (BF) G L Moore 6-10-0 M Wigham 6
3 6450 EVEZIO RUFO 17 (B,CD,S) N Littmoden 6-9-12 A McCarthy (3) 3
4 4000 RONQUISTA D'OR 17 (B,C) G Ham 4-9-12 S Drowne 4
5 0-03 FILMORE WEST 10 (F) D Arbuthnot 5-9-8 R Price 9
6 3360 HEAD GARDENER 13 (B,CD) N Littmoden 4-9-7 T G McLaughlin (7) 1
7 -552 DURGAMS FIRST 19 (BF,C,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 6-9-6 S Copp (5) 7
8 3201 ERRANT 6 (CD) D Cosgrove 6-9-5 M Rimmer 2
9 CANONBEBOTHERED 47 J M Pearl 7-8-9 S Buckley (7) 3

7-4 Durgams First 7-2 Ki Chi Saga, Errant, 7-1 Evezio Rufo, 8-1 others

3.30 MARTINIQUE STAKES (2-Y-O. £2,318: 5f) (12)

1 44 LADY JANE 15 W Muir 8-7 M Mathers (7) 1
2 00 RED VENUS 20 (B) J Berry 8-7 P Fessey 12
3 00 TRINA'S PET 9 B Meehan 8-7 S Drowne 9
4 5 CRYSTAL LASS 6 J Balding 8-4 J Edmunds 2
5 BISHOPSTONE POND S Mellor 8-2 J Quinn 5
6 MISS FIT Mrs G Rees 8-2 F Norton 3
7 4 *THE NURSE 20 R Williams 8-2* Paul Eddery 4
8 3500 TRUE LOVE WAYS 8 (V) W G M Turner 8-2 S Righton (7) 8
9 HOT LEGS B McMahon 8-0 J Bramhill 6
10 0 NILBOWE HILL 20 D McCain 8-0 W Supple 10
11 0236 SWEET COMPLIANCE 9 (V) P Shakespeare 8-0 N Carlisle 11
12 2 TROJAN GIRL 68 N Littmoden 8-0 A McCarthy (3) 7

9-4 Trojan Girl 7-2 Sweet Compliance, 5-1 Lady Jane. The Nurse 10-1 others

4.05 TURTLE ISLAND HANDICAP (£2,941: 1m) (15)

1 0325 BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 6 (CD,F,G) B Millman 9-10-0 D Pears 9
2 3510 WAIKIKI BEACH 31 (CD,F,G) G L Moore 7-9-9 R Brisland (7) 14
3 5644 BENTICO 31 (V,CD,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 9-9-7 P McCabe (3) 3
4 -200 JACK RUBY 14 (V) P Gilligan 3-9 3 M Rimmer 1
5 0300 MUARA BAY 15 (D,CD,G) G Lewis 4-9-1 Paul Eddery 10
6 6604 ZALOTTO 13 (B,C) M Easterby 4-9-1 J Fanning 11
7 0200 NOMASTA 13 Mrs G Rees 4-8-9 F Norton 5
8 3102 CATS BOTTOM 6 (CD,F) A Newcombe 6-8-7 J Quinn 15
9 0054 *MOLLY MUSIC 20 (CD) G Margarson 4-8-5* G Bardwell 2
10 0003 ISIT IZZY 15 B McMahon 6-8-4 L Newton 8
11 6002 SPARKLING HARRY 13 Miss L Siddall 4-8-3 A McCarthy (3) 7
12 0401 KASS ALHAWA 15 (C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 5-8-1 T Williams 12
13 4000 WELCOME LU 10 (CD,F,G) J L Harris 5-7-11 J Lowe 13
14 6000 *RIPSNORTER 13 (CD,G,S) P Purdy 9-7-10* Amanda Sanders 6
15 500- SOSTENUTO 246 R Hollinshead 5-7-10 P M Quinn (7) 4

5-1 Broughtons Turmoil, 6-1 Kass Alhawa. 13-2 Cats Bottom. 7-1 others

4.40 SAN SALVADOR APPRENTICES SELLING HANDICAP (£1,833 7f) (16)

1 4301 DESERT INVADER 6 (CD) D Chapman 7-10-5 (6ex) S Finnamore 4
2 0000 DIAMOND EYRE 6 (D) J Bridger 4-10-0 Melanie Worden (5) 14
3 5504 LEIGH CROFTER 6 (B,CD,F,G,S) J A Harris 9-9-12 C Cogan 15
4 3-55 U-NO-HARRY 13 (CD,F) R Hollinshead 5-9-11 S Clarke (5) 1
5 -030 MY LEGAL EAGLE 23 J Hills 4-9-10 P Clarke 13
6 4150 CAPE HOPE 51 (BF,S) J Akehurst 5-9-8 N Callan 2
7 0005 SWOOSH 13 (B) J Glover 3-9-3 R Cody-Boutcher 7
8 0000 SMART GUEST 8 (F,G,S) J Parkes 6-8-12 R Brisland 16
9 -006 TINKLERS FOLLY 5 (D,F,G) G Margarson 6-8-12 J Savage (5) 9
10 -200 MARTINDALE 13 (V) R Bastiman 5-8-10 P Fitzsimons 12
11 5650 TILBURG 87 Mrs N Macauley 3-8-5 K Moore (5) 10
12 0025 DARK MENACE 16 (B,D,F) E Wheeler 6-8-4 B O Leary (5) 8
13 060- DINO'S MISTRAL 19 J K Morgan 5-8-4 G Hannon 3
14 0023 SERAPE 17 M Pettl 5-8-4 P Goode 6
15 0600 PATHAZE 8 (F) N Bycroft 5-8-3 P M Quinn 11
16 0330 *MARINO STREET 42 (B) P Evans 5-8-1* K Pierrepont (5) 5

11-2 Desert Invader 13-2 Serape. 7-1 Smart Guest. 8-1 Cape Hope. 10-1 others.

5.15 FIJI HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £2,206: 1m 4f) (9)

1 5340 LEGEND OF LOVE 13 (B) J Glover 9-7 S D Williams 1
2 5056 GORGEOUS GUSSY 12 M Bell 9-3 C Carver (7) 3
3 1565 WINGS AWARDED 5 (G) M Channon 9-2 S Drowne 8
4 05-0 CAPTAIN JONES 8 M A Buckley 9-2 J Gracey (7) 5
5 4030 GO POSITIVE 15 Mrs G Rees 8-9 F Norton 7
6 -630 COURAGE UNDER FIRE 8 D Arbuthnot 8-5 R Price 2
7 000- TREASURE ISLAND 217 M Prescott 8-4 C Nutter 9
8 5033 FELONY 6 D Murray Smith 8-2 A McCarthy (3) 4
9 6002 EAGER HERO 21 M Brittain 7-13 G Bardwell 6

3-1 Legend Of Love. 4-1 Wings Awarded. 5-1 Treasure Island, 6-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

SOUTHWELL: Trainers: M Prescott, 20 winners from 75 runners, 26.7%, J Akehurst, 4 from 17, 23 5%, Mrs M Reveley, 26 from 112, 23.2%. Jockeys: C Carver, 5 winners from 9 rides. 55.6%, Paul Eddery 8 from 68, 11.8%, P McCabe, 14 from 119, 11 8%. RIPON: Trainers: S Woods, 4 winners from 13 runners, 30.8%, L Cumani, 10 from 39, 25 6%, J Fanshawe, 4 from 16, 25 0%. Jockeys: O Urbina, 5 winners from 22 rides, 22 7%, J Weaver, 24 from 108, 22.2%, G Hind, 8 from 48, 16 7%.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

There are a number of what I might describe as "clever" plays which are well known in the bridge literature but seen only rarely at the table. One such came up in the teams event at the 1998 European Mixed Championships in Aachen. It featured the Russian pair, Michael Rosenblum and Irina Panina.

Dealer South	Love All	IMPs
	♠ A K Q 10 2 ♡ 7 6 3 ♢ 8 5 2 ♣ Q 6	
♠ 5 ♡ K Q J 9 8 4 ♢ J 4 3 ♣ 5 4 2	N / W E / S	♠ J 9 8 7 3 ♡ 5 ♢ A 9 ♣ K J 10 8 7
	♠ 6 4 ♡ A 10 2 ♢ K Q 10 7 6 ♣ A 9 3	

W	N	E	S
Rosenblum		Panina	
–	–	–	1 D
2 H	2 S	Pass	3 D
Pass	3 H	Pass	3 NT
All Pass			

Contract: *Three No-Trumps* by South. Lead: king of hearts.

Two Hearts was a weak jump overcall, ostensibly showing a weakish hand with a six-card heart suit: however, many players make these bids *with only* five cards these days, so declarer chose to duck the first trick. *If Rosenblum* had switched to a club you wouldn't be reading about the hand in *the newspapers*, but he continued with the jack of hearts. On that *Panina discarded the* ace of diamonds!

It was clear to East that her partner *could not* have much outside his long heart suit so was unlikely to have a quick entry. *Left to herself*, declarer would probably be able to establish all the tricks she required for *her contract* by playing on her long diamond suit and if, for example, her diamonds were KJ10xxx, she would always "guess" *correctly* by leading to the king in an attempt to keep West out of the lead.

By discarding the ace of diamonds, Panina hoped to create an entry to her partner's hand if he held either Qx or Jxx of diamonds. Sure enough, he had the latter holding and declarer could no longer establish any long diamond tricks, and went down in an apparently impregnable contract. How she might still have made it I leave to the double-dummy experts. I gave a hand recently where Karen McCallum found a similar defence.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HABUTAI
a. A Californian hacienda
b. An exciting drug
c. A soft silk

JUBJUB
a. A sherbet drink
b. A bird
c. A tug on the Ganges

NOODLE
a. A home-made flute
b. A bird
c. To hunt for opals

MARY JANE
a. A shoe
b. A nursemaid
c. Rice pudding

Answers on page 54



KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Kasparov v Topalov

Today I give two further games from the computer-assisted match between Garry Kasparov and Veselin Topalov. It was noteworthy that the percentage of decisive games in this contest was relatively high (70 per cent) although the speed chess match which had contested earlier this year against Topalov was even higher (100 per cent in Kasparov's favour). The distribution of victories for White and Black in the computer-assisted match was also not particularly unusual, the first four decisive games going in White's favour, the next three in Black's.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Veselin Topalov
Man and computer match
Leon 1998

Grunfeld Defence

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	g6
3	c4	Bg7
4	g3	0-0
5	Bg2	c6
6	Nc3	d5
7	cxd5	cxd5
8	Ne5	e6
9	0-0	Nfd7
10	f4	Nc6
11	Be3	f6
12	Nf3	f5
13	Ne5	Nb6
14	b3	Bd7
15	Qd3	Nc8
16	Bc1	Nxe5
17	dxe5	Rf7
18	Be3	Bc6
19	Rfc1	Qa5
20	a3	a6
21	Bd4	Bf8
22	e3	Be8
23	Qd2	Qd8
24	Bf1	Rc7
25	Qb2	Rc6
26	Na4	Rxc1
27	Rxc1	Bc6
28	Nc5	Qe8
29	a4	a5
30	Qc3	Qf7
31	Bb5	Bxb5
32	axb5	h6
33	Na4	Ba3
34	Qxc8+	Rxc8
35	Rxc8+	Kh7
36	b6	Black resigns

White: Veselin Topalov
Black: Garry Kasparov

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	e5
7	Nb3	Be6
8	f3	Nbd7
9	Qd2	Be7
10	g4	h6
11	0-0-0	b5
12	Kb1	Nb6
13	Na5	Qc7
14	Bxb6	Qxb6
15	Nd5	Nxd5
16	exd5	Bd7
17	h4	b4
18	Nc6	Bxc6
19	dxc6	Qxc6
20	Qxb4	d5
21	Qb3	Rd8
22	c4	0-0
23	Rxd5	Rxd5
24	cxd5	Qd6
25	Qc4	e4
26	Qxe4	Rb8
27	Bd3	g6
28	h5	Qf6
29	Rh2	Ba3
30	b3	Rb7
31	Qe3	Re7
32	Be4	Rc7
33	Rc2	g5
34	Qd2	Rxc2
35	Kxc2	Qa1
36	Kd3	Qf1+
37	Kd4	Qa1+
38	Kc4	Qf1+
39	Qd3	Qf2
40	b4	Qxa2+
41	Qb3	Qxb3+
42	Kxb3	Bc1
43	Bd3	Bf4
44	Bxa6	Kf8
45	Kc4	Ke7
46	Bc8	Bd6
47	Bf5	Kf8
48	Bh7	Ke7
49	b5	Kd7
50	Bg8	Ke7
51	b6	Black resigns

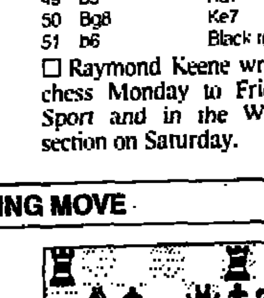
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Alekhine — Robles, Madrid 1941.

In this position White clearly has a dangerous pin against Black's knight. How does he utilise this to achieve an immediate win of material?



Solution on page 54



Only applicable in mainland Britain.



RACING: EXCLUS

Hats of
Chann
s Bint A
triump

Celer
hold on
Gold

Now
Dunlo
extra

RACING: EXCLUSIVE STEALS THE HEADLINES IN MEMORABLE TREBLE FOR STOUTE AND SWINBURN

Hats off to Channon as Bint Allayl triumphs

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE famous windmill celebration which followed 21 goals for England — and many more for the likes of Southampton, Portsmouth and Manchester City — may be archive material, but Mick Channon has never stopped enjoying victory.

Standing in the Royal Enclosure as he watched the final stages of the Queen Mary Stakes yesterday, his emotions overflowed as his filly, Bint Allayl, powered clear of her rivals and Channon's arms went into overdrive once more, sending his top hat high into the sky — against all the rules and traditions of Royal Ascot. "I believe you are supposed not to take your hat off in the Enclosure, but I lost mine. I just hope they will let me back in," he said as the rain poured down in the winner's enclosure.

He need not worry. Channon's cheery disposition and the link he has forged between the world of football and

ROYAL ASCOT

racing is precious to a sport which sometimes loses sight of the need for popular appeal and personalities. Channon has made no secret of his belief in Bint Allayl, owned by Sheikh Ahmed al-Maktoum, and he was hopeful of victory yesterday, but as he said: "It's like football, you have to perform on the day. England did it on Monday and she has done it today. With Pipalong second, the form stands up and I was delighted to see that the filly is as good as I have always thought."

Frankie Dettori, riding his third winner of the meeting, paid the winner the compliment of comparing her with one of racing's fastest fillies of recent years. "She won like a real good one — I think this filly has a bit more stamina than Lochsong and you will see her go six and seven furlongs eventually. For Lochsong, five furlongs was the limit."

If Channon was on top of the world, the recently knighted Sir Michael Stoute had reason to feel like a king after Walter Swinburn and Exclusive came from off the pace to land the Coronation Stakes. In a strongly run race, the Cheveley Park Stud-owned and bred filly showed a sparkling turn of foot to leave behind the front-running La Nuit Rose and withstand the challenge of Zalaiyka, the 5-4 favourite. The defeat of the runner-up continued the losing run in Britain of her trainer, Alain de Royer Dupré, who has sent several fancied runners from France but is still awaiting his first winner.

The Aga Khan, owner of Zalaiyka, was the first to applaud Stoute. "Congratulations on everything," he said, and within an hour the pair had reason to celebrate as they teamed up to win a thrilling Queens Vase in which Maridpour came out best in a photo-finish with Laurentide.

Swinburn, who had not ridden a winner at the royal meeting for four years before yesterday, completed a 419-1 treble for the Stoute stable when Greek Palace made a mockery of the Bessborough Stakes. Turning into the straight, Swinburn was sitting motionless on Lord Weinstock's colt and he won a shade comfortably from Sabadilla, the subject of a big morning gamble.

Diktat overcame inexperience to win the Jersey Stakes and provide Sheikh Mohammed with his fourth winner of the meeting. David Loder had considered running the Warning colt in the St James's Palace Stakes 24 hours earlier, but he was concerned that Diktat's inexperience could make the difference in group one company — and his fears seemed justified.

After striking the front approaching the furlong pole, Diktat wandered off a true line, but as Darryll Holland explained to winning connections: "He was too good for them. He was travelling so well and I got there too soon. He was very green and is just a big baby. He definitely wants to go up in class."

"Will you let me run him in the Jacques le Marois?" Loder asked Sheikh Mohammed. "Why not?" came the reply. "We will beat you with Intikhab."

Cards and results, page 45

JULIAN HERBERT / ALLSPORT



Exclusive initiates a treble for Stoute and Swinburn in the Coronation Stakes at Royal Ascot yesterday

ROYAL ASCOT

THUNDERER

2.30 Dabaya
3.05 Speedy James
3.45 Canon Can
4.20 CRETAN GIFT (nap)
4.55 Compton Admiral
5.30 Legal Lunch

Timekeeper's top rating: 5.30 TENSILE.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.30 Zomaradah. 4.20 Kahal. 5.30 JAAZIM (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT — SIS
DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.30 RIBBLESDALE STAKES — BBC1
(Group II: 3-Y-O: £71,160: 1m 4f) (9 runners)

101	(8)	5-11	ZOMARADAH 25 (G,S) (Sheikh M al-Maktoum) L Cumani 9-0	W R Swinburn	83+
102	(6)	11-12	BAHR 13 (F,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 8-8	L Dettori	122
103	(9)	12	DABAYA 25 (S) (HRH Aga Khan) J Oxx (Ire) 8-8	J Murtagh	–
104	(5)	04133-3	DUE SOUTH 43 (G) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-8	Pat Eddery	104
105	(4)	412-301	JIBE 34 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 8-8	K Fallon	114
106	(3)	33-1621	PUTUNA 7 (S) (R Hitchins) I Balding 8-8	M Roberts	109
107	(7)	3212-2	RAMBLING ROSE 43 (BF,F) (Sir Evelyn De Rothschild) Sir M Stoute 8-8	O Peslier	112
108	(2)	50-150	SILCA KEY SERVICE 25 (S) (D Hussan) M Channon 8-8	T Quinn	101
109	(1)	26-3221	STAR BEGONIA 13 (D,G) (M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8-8	M J Kinane	81

BETTING: 11-10 Bahr, 5-1 Jibe, Zomaradah, 7-1 Dabaya, 8-1 Rambling Rose, 16-1 Putuna, 25-1 Due South, Star Begonia, 33-1 Silca Key Service.

1997: YASHMAK 8-8 K Fallon (7-2) H Cecil 9 ran

FORM FOCUS Zomaradah beat Bardonecchia 3½l in 9-runner group I stakes at San Siro (1m 3f, heavy). Bahr ¾l 2nd of 8 to Shahtoush in group I stakes at Epsom (1m 4f 10yd, good). Dabaya 2½l 2nd of 6 to Risk Material in listed stakes at Curragh (1m 2f, good to firm); previously beat Star Begonia (levels) 4l in 8-runner maiden fillies stakes at Navan (1m 2f, good to soft). Jibe beat Genoa 3½l in 5-runner fillies stakes listed at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, good to firm). Putuna beat Zante 2½l in 4-runner stakes (listed) at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, soft). Rambling Rose 6l 2nd of 8 to High And Low in fillies stakes listed at Chester (1m 3f 79yd, good) with Due South (levels) 10l 3rd. Silca Key Service 3¼l 7th of 13 to Tarascon in fillies group I stakes at Curragh (1m, good to firm). Star Begonia beat Mardani 1½l in 8-runner maiden stakes at Curragh (1m 4f, good).

BAHR cannot be sensibly opposed getting 6lb from Zomaradah

3.05 NORFOLK STAKES — BBC1
(Group III: 2-Y-O: £29,775: 5f) (17 runners)

201	(5)	61	BUGATTI REEF 14 (D,S) (Mrs J Magnier/M Tabor) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8-12	M J Kinane	–
202	(8)	31	CHOTO MATE 30 (D,F) (V Matalon) R Hannon 8-12	R Hughes	86
203	(15)	1	EL TANGO 31 (D) (Mrs S Tucker) B Meehan 8-12	Pat Eddery	78
204	(11)	31	KAAMEN 22 (D,F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hanbury 8-12	R Hills	84
205	(16)	131	MONKSTON POINT 5 (D,S) (O Broomfield) D Arbuthnot 8-12	S Whitworth	109
206	(17)	21	PATRIOT 26 (D,F) (W Clifford) B Smart 8-12	J Stack	95
207	(2)	215	PERUGINO BAY 44 (D,S) (J Frewell) B McMahon 8-12	R Cochrane	97
208	(13)	03011	PIPS MAGIC 21 (D,F,G) (F Brady) J Goldie 8-12	J F Egan	90
209	(3)	5	RIVERDANCE 22 (Gallagher Equine Ltd) K McAuliffe 8-12	K Fallon	78
210	(1)	11	ROSSELLI 15 (D,F,S) (T Holdcroft) J Berry 8-12	J Carroll	94
211	(7)	41	SAILING SHOES 15 (D,G) (Mrs C Parker) R Hannon 8-12	J Reid	106
212	(14)	13	SHEER VIKING 36 (BF,D,S) (R Arculli) B Hills 8-12	D Holland	98
213	(4)	112	SPEEDY JAMES 23 (BF,D,G,S) (Lucayan Stud) J Berry 8-12	O Peslier	112
214	(12)	13	SYDNEY SAFEHANDS 17 (D) (S Leon) N Littmoden 8-12	L Dettori	94
215	(9)	111	INYA LAKE 13 (D,S) (Barry Minty) M Channon 8-7	A Mackay	89
216	(6)	541	TOP ORDER 10 (D,S) (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-7	T Quinn	95
217	(10)	1	UNICAMP 27 (F) (J Coutinho Nogueira) E Dunlop 8-7	M Hills	87

BETTING: 4-1 Speedy James, 5-1 Top Order, 6-1 Bugatti Reef, 7-1 Monkston Point, 8-1 Rosselli, Sheer Viking, 10-1 Kaamen, 12-1 others.

1997: TIPPITT BOY 8-12 J Reid (33-1) K McAuliffe 5 ran

FORM FOCUS Bugatti Reef beat Blue Lotus 2l in 8-runner maiden stakes at Tipperary (5f, good to soft). Choto Mate beat Bodfari Times 1½l in 4-runner maiden stakes at Goodwood (5f, good to firm). El Tango beat Mammas F-C 2½l in 9-runner maiden stakes at Southwell (5f, Aw, fibresand). Kaamen beat Inlife 2l in 11-runner maiden stakes at Newbury (5f 34yd, good to firm) with Riverdance (levels) 6½l 5th. Monkston Point beat Pisces Lad 10l in 4-runner stakes at Bath (5f 11yd, good to soft). Patriot beat Cartmel Park 1¼l in 8-runner stakes at Warwick (5f, good to firm), previously ½l 2nd of 13 to Monkston Point (levels) in maiden stakes at Bath (5f 11yd, soft). Perugino Bay 5l 5th of 7 to Queensland Star in stakes at Chester (5f 16yd, good). Rosselli beat Principality ¾l in 3-runner stakes at Beverley (5f, good to soft). Sailing Shoes beat Diletto 2½l in 7-runner maiden stakes at Chester (5f 16yd, good). Sheer Viking 1¾l 3rd of 4 to Red Sea in stakes at York (6f, good). Speedy James 3½l 2nd of 7 to Bint Allayl in stakes (listed) at Sandown (5f 6yd, good) with Monkston Point (5lb worse off) 3½l 3rd. Sydney Safehands 2l 3rd of 9 to Cheyenne Gold in stakes at Windsor (5f 10yd, good to firm). Inya Lake beat Cartmel Park 1¼l in 5-runner stakes at Catterick (5f, good to soft). Top Order beat Key 9l in 9-runner maiden at Warwick (5f, soft). Unicamp beat Spendtheproceede's 2½l in 7-runner novice stakes at Nottingham (6f, firm).

SPEEDY JAMES faces nothing of the calibre of Bint Allayal this time

3.45 GOLD CUP — BBC1
(Group I: £118,500: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

301	(4)	41014-0	CANON CAN 24 (C,F,G,S) (Canon (Anglia) O A Ltd) H Cecil 5-9-2	K Fallon	129
302	(5)	1542-06	CELERIC 35 (CD,F,G) (C Spence) J Dunlop 6-9-2	Pat Eddery	126
303	(3)	10/15-1	CLERKENWELL 15 (F,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 5-9-2	W R Swinburn	104
304	(11)	0145-60	DOUBLE TRIGGER 24 (CD,F,G,S) (R Huggins) M Johnston 7-9-2	D Holland	113
305	(14)	410-442	GORDI 29 (BF,C,F,G) (Dr M Smurfit) D Weld (Ire) 5-9-2	M J Kinane	112
306	(9)	452/456	I'M SUPPOSIN 33 (F,S) (N Cooper) R Rowe 6-9-2	R Cochrane	101
307	(1)	6621-52	MONGOL WARRIOR 33 (G,S) (H De Kwiatkowski) Lord Huntingdon 5-9-2	D Harrison	103
308	(7)	223-131	PERSIAN PUNCH 24 (F,G,S) (J Smith) D Elsworth 5-9-2	J Reid	128
309	(16)	0181-32	SAMRAAN 24 (C,F,G,S) (K M Al-Mudhaf) J Dunlop 5-9-2	DOUBTFUL	122
310	(8)	/33/2-1	SILENCE IN COURT 43 (F,G,S) (P Freeman) A Bailey 7-9-2	A Mackay	98+
311	(10)	11050-1	STRETAREZ 42 (F,G,S) (Winning Line Ltd) Miss V Williams 5-9-2	K Darley	111
312	(17)	21-13	KAYF TARA 24 (C,F,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-0	L Dettori	118
313	(2)	12110-0	MAYLANE 82 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-0	D O'Donohoe	117
314	(15)	1211-04	THREE CHEERS 24 (B,F,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 4-9-0	M Hills	113
315	(13)	1135-43	WINDSOR CASTLE 32 (B,C,F,S) (HRH Prince F Salman) P Cole 4-9-0	T Quinn	116
316	(12)	/1251-1	FRENCH BALLERINA 29 (F,G,S) P Flynn (Ire) 5-8-13	J A Heffernan	109
317	(6)	3314-04	BOOK AT BEDTIME 32 (F,S) (R Cyzer) C Cyzer 4-8-11	O Peslier	111

BETTING: 9-2 Persian Punch, 6-1 Stretarez, 7-1 Windsor Castle, 8-1 Kayf Tara, Three Cheers, 10-1 Canon Can, 12-1 Celeric, French Ballerina, 16-1 Clerkenwell, 20-1 others.

1997: CELERIC 5-9-2 Pat Eddery (11-2) D Morley 13 ran

FORM FOCUS Clerkenwell beat Leonato ½l in 5-runner stakes at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good). I'm Supposin 5¾l 6th of 8 to Yorkshire in stakes (listed) at Newbury (1m 5f 61yd, good to firm). Mongol Warrior 3l 2nd of 7 to Solo Mio in group III stakes at Baden-Baden (2m, good). Persian Punch beat Samraan (3lb worse off) neck in 11-runner group III stakes at Sandown (2m 78yd, good to firm) with Kayf Tara (3lb worse off) 1¾l 3rd, Three Cheers (levels) 3½l 4th, Double Trigger (2lb better off) 18l 8th and Canon Can (levels) 31l 9th. Silence In Court beat Turnpole 2l in 18-runner handicap at Chester (2m 2f 147yd, good). Stretarez beat Pallo Sky neck in 6-runner group III stakes at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, good to firm). Windsor Castle 1l 3rd of 6 to Tajoun in group II stakes at Longchamp (1m 7f 110yd, good) with Book At Bedtime (levels) 1¾l 4th. French Ballerina beat Gordi (levels) 1½l in 6-runner stakes (listed) at Leopardstown (1m 6f, good to firm).

SILENCE IN COURT won the Chester Cup in fine style and could spring a surprise

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. J if jumps. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

4.20 CORK AND ORRERY STAKES — BBC2
(Group II: £59,250: 6f) (16 runners)

401	(15)	/2010-6	COMPTON PLACE 24 (D,F,G) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 4-9-6	S Sanders	117
402	(8)	1114-23	ELNADIM 24 (BF,CD,F,G) (H al-Maktoum) J Dunlop 4-9-4	R Hills	138
403	(16)	24411-4	KAHAL 33 (C,F,G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 4-9-4	L Dettori	131
404	(10)	4100-10	ANDREYEV 35 (C,D,F,G,S) (J Palmer-Brown) R Hannon 4-9-0	R Hughes	121
405	(5)	1226520	CRETAN GIFT 19 (V,D,F,G,S) (T Clarke) N Littmoden 7-9-0	K Fallon	126
406	(7)	4221-14	DYHIM DIAMOND 19 (D,G) (S Sunali) C Laffon-Parias (Fr) 4-9-0	O Peslier	–
407	(4)	202-146	MONAASSIB 35 (D,F,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 7-9-0	K Darley	130
408	(11)	112-024	MY BEST VALENTINE 24 (D,F,G,S) (Valentines) V Soane 8-9-0	R Cochrane	129
409	(6)	3502-16	RAMBLING BEAR 18 (D,F,G) (M Hill/H Clakeo) M Blanshard 5-9-0	D Sweeney	117
410	(13)	1233-44	TOMBA 19 (D,G,S) (J Good) B Meehan 4-9-0	M Tebbutt	125
411	(9)	1131-44	PRINCELY HEIR 39 (D,F,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) M Johnston 3-8-13	D Holland	109
412	(1)	114-402	ARKADIAN HERO 19 (D,G) (M Tabor/Mrs J Magnier) L Cumani 3-8-11	M J Kinane	117
413	(14)	201-001	MARCH STAR 7 (D,F,S) (N O'Callaghan) J Toller 4-8-11	W R Swinburn	107
414	(12)	1112-01	TAMARISK 19 (D,F,G) (Highclere Racing Ltd) R Charlton 3-8-7	T Sprake	128
415	(3)	14-5	BAYLEAF 19 (F) (Lady Rothschild) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-4	D Harrison	100
416	(2)	1300-23	ZELDING 19 (BF,G,S) (R Strauss) R Collet (Fr) 3-8-4	D Boeuf	–

BETTING: 7-2 Kahal, 9-2 Elnadim, Tamarisk, 6-1 Arkadian Hero, 8-1 Tomba, 10-1 Dyhim Diamond, 14-1 My Best Valentine, 20-1 Andreyev, Cretan Gift, Monaassib, Zelding, 25-1 others.

1997: ROYAL APPLAUSE 4-9-3 M Hills (11-2 fav) B Hills 23 ran

FORM FOCUS Elnadim 2¼l 3rd of 8 to Bolshoi in group II stakes at Sandown (5f 6yd, good) with My Best Valentine (levels) 5¼l 4th and Compton Place (1lb better off) 8¾l 6th. Kahal 3l 4th of 10 to Cape Cross in group I stakes at Newbury (1m, good to firm), previously beat Rebecca Sharp neck in 12-runner group II stakes at Newmarket (7f, good) with Elnadim (4lb better off) 2¼l 4th. Monaassib 5l 6th of 10 to Bollin Joanne in group III stakes at York (6f, good) with Andreyev (4lb worse off) 52l last. Princely Heir 3¼l 4th of 11 to Tiger Hill in group II stakes at Cologne (1m, good). March Star beat Thanksgiving 6l in 4-runner stakes at Yarmouth (6f 3yd, soft). Tamarisk beat Arkadian Hero (6lb better off) 2¼l in 7-runner stakes (listed) at Lingfield (6f, good) with Tomba (8lb better off) 3¾l 4th and Rambling Bear (1lb better off) 4¼l 6th. Bayleaf 2¼l 5th of 9 to Midnight Escape in stakes (listed) at Kempton (5f, good to firm) with Cretan Gift (10lb better off) 4¼l last. Zelding 2½l 3rd of 8 to Sainte Marine in group II stakes at Chantilly (5f, good) with Dyhim Diamond (1lb better off) 3l 4th.

ELNADIM has had legitimate excuses this term and can return to his best

4.55 CHESHAM STAKES
(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £23,875: 7f) (10 runners)

501	(1)	1	HOUSEMASTER 14 (F) (Highclere Racing Ltd) M Bell 9-0	M Fenton	93
502	(10)	1	WESTMINSTER CITY 41 (F) (A Richards) C Brittain 9-0	J Reid	80
503	(2)		AUCTION HOUSE (K Abdulla) B Hills 8-12	M Hills	–
504	(4)	2	COMPTON ADMIRAL 13 (E Penser) G A Butler 8-12	O Peslier	85
505	(7)		MARKAN (H R H Prince Fahd Salman) P Cole 8-12	T Quinn	–
506	(8)	2	RHAPSODIST 29 (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8-12	L Dettori	87
507	(3)	01	SPRING PURSUIT 15 (G) (Fieldspring Racing) R Charlton 8-12	R Hughes	90
508	(5)	3	DASHIBA 34 (J Smith) D Elsworth 8-7	K Fallon	94
509	(6)	4	HISHMAH 19 (H al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-7	R Hills	91
510	(9)		POSTA VECCHIA (Mrs D Nagle & Mrs J Magnier) A P O'Brien (Ire) 8-7	M J Kinane	–

BETTING: 7-2 Posta Vecchia, 9-2 Markan, 5-1 Hishmah, 7-1 Auction House, 8-1 Spring Pursuit, 10-1 Compton Admiral, Rhapsodist, Dashiba, 12-1 others.

1997: CENTRAL PARK 9-0 L Dettori (7-1) P Cole 12 ran

FORM FOCUS Housemaster beat Caballero 2l in 6-runner maiden stakes at Yarmouth (6f 3yd, good to firm). Westminster City beat Aegean Flame neck in 9-runner novice stakes at Lingfield (5f, good to firm). Auction House Exbourne colt, first foal of an unraced mare. Compton Admiral neck 2nd of 8 to Mugtarib in maiden stakes at Goodwood (6f, good). Markan Affirmed colt out of a mare who was a multiple winner at around 1m in the Usa. rhapsodist 2½l 2nd of 10 to Red Delirium in maiden stakes at Goodwood (6f, good to firm). Spring Pursuit beat Al Fahda 2l in 8-runner novice stakes at Warwick (6f, good). Dashiba 1½l 3rd of 7 to Golden Silca in fillies stakes at Newbury (5f 34yd, good to firm). Hishmah 1¾l 4th of 10 to Agreeable in maiden stakes at Newmarket (6f, good to firm). Posta Vecchia Rainbow Quest filly out of Music And Dance. Half brother to 7f winner Golden Nashwan.

POSTA VECCHIA is unraced but has an illustrious pedigree

5.30 KING GEORGE V HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £29,700: 1m 4f) (20 runners)

601	(16)	040-340	CIRCUS 18 (S Manana) C Brittain 9-7	O Peslier	100
602	(18)	21-1	OPERA KING 19 (G) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor 9-3	L Dettori	97+
603	(3)	251	HITMAN 14 (F) (Paper Boys) H Cecil 9-2	K Fallon	84
604	(2)	052-31	JAAZIM 33 (V,D,F) (H al-Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 8-12	R Hills	111
605	(7)	53-121	DOUBLE CLASSIC 15 (D,G,S) (M al-Maktoum) Sir M Stoute 8-12	J Reid	117
606	(11)	4161-30	CARRY THE FLAG 18 (F,G) (L Gaucci) P Cole 8-10	D Holland	109
607	(5)	2-41	LEGAL LUNCH 26 (S) (Alleged Partnership) P Harris 8-10	Pat Eddery	112
608	(4)	5-4311	EMERALD HEIGHTS 14 (D,G) (Arlington Bloodstock) J Fanshawe 8-8	D Harrison	104
609	(19)	510-14	NAUTICAL STAR 37 (BF,F,S) (M Wauchope) J Hills 8-7	M Hills	109
610	(14)	2-6313	EVANDER 15 (F) (A Speelman) P Cole 8-6	T Quinn	111
611	(12)	03-0021	BRAVE NOBLE 14 (F) (M al-Maktoum) E Dunlop 8-4	S Whitworth	101
612	(9)	43-1	MUDALAL 40 (F) (H al-Maktoum) B Hills 8-4	M Roberts	109
613	(8)	05-411	BLUEPRINT 36 (V,D) (The Queen) Lord Huntingdon 8-3	W Ryan	111
614	(10)	4200-15	TENSILE 39 (S) (Mrs V Shelton) L Cumani 8-3	R Ffrench	119
615	(20)	332-106	INDIMAAJ 15 (D,S) (Kuwait Racing Syndicate) J Dunlop 8-2	G Carter	104
616	(17)	02-0212	MASAMADAS 23 (BF,D,F) (M Tilbrook) C Wall 8-1	R Mullen (3)	115
617	(13)	14-0	CENTRAL COMMITTEE 61 (F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 7-13	N Adams	97
618	(1)	0324	PERADVENTURE 12 (M Pescod) R Hannon 7-12	C Rutter	105
619	(6)	-132043	GRALMANO 23 (Coleorton Moor Racing) N Littmoden 7-12	J F Egan	101
620	(15)	32-2132	DUTCH LAD 43 (D,S) (S Dean) M Tompkins 7-12	A Nicholls (7)	110

BETTING: 5-1 Double Classic, 7-1 Opera King, 8-1 Mudalal, 10-1 Emerald Heights, Tensile, 12-1 Dutch Lad, Hitman, 14-1 Blueprint, Jaazim, Legal Lunch, 16-1 Central Committee, Masamadas, Nautical Star, 20-1 others.

1997: HERITAGE 8-6 L Dettori (15-2) J Gosden 20 ran

FORM FOCUS Circus 9l 11th of 16 to Central Park in Italian Derby group I at Capannelle (1m 4f, good to firm) with Carry The Flag (11lb better off) 10l 13th. Opera King beat Success And Glory neck in 4-runner stakes at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yd, good). Hitman beat Muhib 1¾l in 11-runner maiden stakes at Yarmouth (1m 3yd, good to firm). Jaazim beat Jonas Nightengale 2½l in 7-runner handicap at Newbury (1m 4f 5yd, good to firm). Double Classic beat Eastwell Hall 1¼l in 7-runner handicap at Goodwood (1m 4f, good) with Indimaaj (10lb better off) 11l 6th. Legal Lunch beat Corelli 4l in 12-runner maiden stakes at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good to soft). Emerald Heights beat Supreme Sound ¾l in 11-runner handicap at Haydock (1m 2f 120yd, good). Nautical Star 2¾l 4th of 11 to Bawsian in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good to soft). Evander 12l 3rd of 4 to Lonesome Dude in stakes at Goodwood (1m 1f, good). Brave Noble beat Benjamin Frank 2l in 8-runner handicap at Yarmouth (1m 3f 101yd, good to firm). Mudalal beat Coulthard 3½l in 12-runner maiden stakes at Lingfield (1m 2f, good to firm) with Legal Lunch (6lb worse off) 7l 4th and Brave Noble (levels) 10l 8th. Blueprint beat Polo Venture 4l in 8-runner handicap at Lingfield (1m 4f, Aw, equitrack). Masamadas 3l 2nd of 8 to Generosity in handicap at Sandown (1m 3f 91yd, good to soft) with Gralmano (5lb better off) 3l 3rd. Central Committee 19l 7th of 18 to Rutland Chantry in handicap at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, heavy). Peradventure 4¾l 4th of 6 to Mister Benjamin in handicap at Haydock (1m 3f 120yd, good). Dutch Lad ½l 2nd of 11 to High And Mighty in handicap at Chester (1m 4f 66yd, good) with Indimaaj (7lb better off) 18l 8th.

EMERALD HEIGHTS is on an upward curve and can improve again

Speedy James to show clean pair of heels

2.30: By his own admission, Frankie Dettori did not enjoy his finest hour on Bahr in the Oaks. Cruising down the hill, Dettori was concentrating on Midnight Line, the favourite, and was caught slightly unawares as Mick Kinane got a winning first run on Shahtoush. Nonetheless, the form of the fillies' classic reads better than anything else on show and she has an obvious form chance — provided she has recovered from Epsom. However, at the likely odds I like **Dabaya**, trained by John Oxx. She justified odds-on favouritism on her debut at Navan before finishing third to Risk Material in a listed race at the Curragh last month, when she was given far too much to do. She should appreciate the step up to 1½ miles and is an each-way alternative to the short-priced favourite. [RE]

3.05: The Ballydoyle raider, Bugatti Reef, is closely related to Dayjur and speed is his forte — as he showed when dropped to this trip at Tipperary after a defeat over six furlongs on his debut. A number of promising maiden winners lie in wait, notably Kaamen, but Jack Berry's runners have already proven themselves in sterner battles. He reckons that Rosselli has much of Mind Games about him, but the rock-solid form belongs to **Speedy James**. Giving

GUIDE TO LADIES' DAY

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: Mongol Warrior
(3.45 Royal Ascot)
Next best: Speedy James
(3.05 Royal Ascot)

Richard Evans completed an 11-1 double yesterday with his nap, Diktat, and next best Bint Allayl.

10lb to Bint Allayl, yesterday's Queen Mary winner, his was an honourable defeat at Sandown, and he has shown a flair for sprinting. [CM]

3.45: With plenty of rain around, the mud-loving **Mongol Warrior** is worth an interest at long odds. The five-year-old has raced only four times in this country but boasts an impressive record abroad, winning four times, including two group three contests. His defeat of Tajoun in heavy ground at Toulouse last December, with the useful yardstick, Taufan's Melody, in fifth, reads well with the runner-up becoming the leading French stayer this season. Persian Punch has form claims on victories in the Sagaro Stakes and the Henry II Stakes, and he has the beating of Windsor Castle, Kayf Tara, Samraan, Canon Can and Three Cheers. Clerkenwell bounced back at Chester but his stamina is doubtful and Stretarez looks a bigger threat. Winner of two group races last year when trained in France, he did particularly well to win the Ormonde Stakes over an inadequate trip last month. He should relish a first attempt at this trip. [RE]

4.20: Tamarisk, second to Xaar in the Dewhurst Stakes last autumn, came into his own when reverting to sprinting at Lingfield 19 days ago and recorded a career best effort. Roger Charlton's runner holds solid claims but he is better on fast ground. **Kahal**, winner of the Challenge Stakes last year, patently failed to stay a mile in the Lockinge Stakes at Newbury but the way the Godolphin runner travels in his races suggests a return to sprinting could suit. With the stable in cracking form he gets the nod. The French sprinters should not be overlooked and Zelding looks the choice of the cross-Channel challenge. [RE]

4.55: Compton Admiral may offer the best value among those with public form. He belied a middle-distance pedigree by showing plenty of dash on his Goodwood debut, and the extra furlong will suit. The three trainers fielding unraced runners all command respect, however, none more so than Paul Cole, who enhanced his fine record with Ascot juveniles with Red Sea in the Coventry on Tuesday. His **Markan** is reported to have been working just as well. [CM]

5.30: Several lightly raced types here are likely to make considerable improvement. Mudalal being a typical case now that he steps up in distance. **Double Classic** has already shown the benefit of an extra test of stamina, winning a competitive race over this trip at Goodwood in taking style. He handles cut underfoot, which may not be true of his stablemate, Jaazim, who otherwise has a similar profile. Inexperience could be costly from such a wide draw, too, whereas nearer the rail is Opera King, who has scope for the improvement he needs to make. Blueprint's limitations have so far been skilfully obscured, while Masamadas could offer some value if the ground were to dry out. [CM]

ROYAL ASCOT SPECIALISTS

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16/1 Clerkenwell
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25/1 Monaassib
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Rollins in another show of strength

BY JACK BAILEY

BASINGSTOKE (first day of four; Hampshire won toss): Derbyshire have scored 245 for six wickets against Hampshire

ALTHOUGH Derbyshire contrived to lose wickets in mid-afternoon, Robin Smith's gambit of putting the visitors in to bat could, for a long time, be rated as only a partial success. Adrian Rollins was limited to a score of 89 and, compared with his 210 when the teams last met, this was something of a coup. Otherwise, a rain-interrupted day saw the early order make batting look easier than bowling on a good pitch, which was refreshed occasionally by rain and used best by the medium pace of John Stephenson.

Stephenson, who shared the bulk of the bowling with Peter Hartley, had a hand in the first five wickets to fall. His high action and movement through the air and off the seam, encouraged by a full length, brought the wickets of Michael Slater, Tim Tweats and Kim Barnett without assistance from the field. Two catches by him at slip accounted for Rollins and Matthew Cassar.

James spoilt the Stephenson monopoly by catching DeFreitas off his own bowling before bad light and rain brought matters to an end. This left Hampshire contemplating a better day's toil than had seemed likely.

While Slater and Rollins were building an opening partnership of 92, there was little comfort for Smith and his men. Rollins's weight of stroke, most noticeable when he rocked on to the back foot and pulled a number of fours, was impressive.

Slater had already made his highest score of an injury-hit season when he shouldered arms and was leg-before. This rare error of judgment came at the end of a 22-over spell in which Smith had used no fewer than seven bowlers. Of these, Mascarenhas contributed a spell of seven overs for eight runs and, having stemmed the tide, was unlucky not to be called on again.

As it was, Stephenson and James made a good job of getting Hampshire off the hook towards the close.

Michael Henderson on the Glamorgan batsman England could not ignore

James rewarded with belated recognition

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS / ALLSPORT



James has finally won his chance in Test cricket after being the heaviest and most consistent run-scorer on the county circuit for the past two seasons

Welsh cricketers, like Italian soldiers, German humorists and English cooks, struggle for recognition. To get into the Test team that bears the name of a neighbouring country, they often feel that they must make half as many runs as their rivals, or take twice as many wickets. It is not a point to concede without a healthy argument, but the feeling of neglect certainly persists.

On the county circuit, the Glamorgan players are widely regarded as a chivalrous group of men and their championship success last year was seen as a triumph for decency as well as good cricket. Yet there are still times when David Graveney, the chairman of selectors, has to take a hard hat when he crosses the Severn Bridge.

In the recent past, the questions have been: why isn't Matthew Maynard worth a go? Or: what more must Hugh Morris do? Before that, it was: have they heard of Alan Jones? And: is Don Shepherd really not good enough? Jones and Shepherd, respectively the leading run-maker and wicket-taker in Glamorgan's history, did not win a single cap, though Jones played twice at the top of the order for England against the Rest of the World in the unofficial Test matches of 1970.

'He made himself strong case by sheer force of runs'

So the decision, late in the day, to call up Stephen James will please many west of Offa's Dyke, though it should be pointed out that James, who has played most of his first-class cricket in Wales, is actually English, born in Lydney in Gloucestershire. He is Welsh by association, because he went to Monmouth School, and by adoption, through his subsequent career with Glamorgan.

James, 30, was a very happy man when Maynard, his county captain, slipped him the news at Cardiff, where Glamorgan were playing Leicestershire. "I am delighted, really chuffed", he said. "I was in the gym doing some weights when Matthew told me I had been called up.

"It was a real shock. I thought others were ahead of me, like Darren Maddy, who had a better A tour of Sri Lanka than me. I felt a bit awkward this morning, because he was at the ground with the Leicestershire team, but he was genuinely pleased for me. He said, 'well done, you deserve it', which was very sporting. I sent him a fax when he was called up for England's one-day internationals last month."

If Maddy, six years his junior, had a better A tour, nobody can say James has not made a strong case by sheer force of runs. Form must count for something and, in James's case, it is not a flower that blooms in the spring to die by autumn. The 733 runs he has made so far this summer follow the 1,775 he made last year and the 1,766 he made the year before.

For two summers, he has been the heaviest run-maker in county cricket. Last season, when he averaged 66, he was voted player of the year by his fellow professionals and given the vice-captaincy of the A team. If he was disappointed, he did not show it publicly and now, because of Mark Butcher's thumb injury, he has been given a chance that he must have wondered would never be his.

It will not hurt him that his opening partner is a man he knows well from his days at Cambridge University. He even invited him to his wedding last year. Michael Atherton was in his last year at Downing College when James went up from Swansea to do a two-year course in Land Economy, "the sportsman's degree", at Hughes Hall. He won Blues each year and was twice on the bench for the Varsity match at Twickenham.

They first played against each other as teenagers at schools level, but yesterday, it was the student Atherton that he recalled playing with at Fenner's in 1989. James opened the innings, Atherton went in first wicket down. "At the end of that year, he was playing for England and I was nowhere", he said.

"I'm sure Athers will take the mickey, as he always does. Whenever I make a hundred for Glamorgan, he rings me up and says: 'They didn't have a third man, then?' It has taken me a long time to get my game right. I would just love to do it at Test level."

RUGBY UNION

Woodward revelling in constant change

FROM DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DUNEDIN AND MARK SOUSTER

HIS worst enemies would not accuse Clive Woodward of being conservative. From the moment that he became England coach and elevated Matt Perry and Andy Long from the ranks of the under-21s straight into the senior side (against Australia last November), change has been fundamental in his approach.

The fresh air that he has breathed into the selection process has sometimes been too much of a good thing: Woodward acknowledges that he should have chosen a different starting XV for the international with Australia in Brisbane 12 days ago and the 76-point defeat was a bitter lesson.

He is apt to change his mind over team arrangements at the drop of a hat, but he is unlikely to apologise for that. He does what he believes is best for his players and the results can be spectacularly right — or wrong. He is on the cusp of doing so again with his squad for the international against New Zealand on Saturday by plucking individuals from their accepted positions and asking them to be footballers first and foremost.

The England team will not be confirmed until the early hours of this morning, but training suggests that Josh Lewsey is about to win his first cap as a centre, that Pat Sanderson will do likewise at open-side flanker and that Tim Stimpson will play on the right wing, to accommodate a proven goalkicker.

That Woodward chose not to use Stimpson in that role against Australia (when he played in his natural position of full back), preferring instead to ask Jonathan Wilkinson to kick, must remain one of life's mysteries. Stimpson's form on this tour may not have been all he could have wanted, but his tackling has been sound and that, above all, is the quality Woodward wants from his team.

Hence the consideration of Lewsey in the centre. Whatever Lewsey may lack as a controller of the game from fly half, his tackling has been first rate and he has a darting sidestep in attack.

Woodward does not see such selections as a gamble, although there is an element of that since not even he can tell how players will perform under conditions of which they know nothing. His aim is to pick his best footballers, an ambition that he wishes the senior clubs would indulge.

London Scottish yesterday announced a three-year ground-sharing and ground-breaking venture with Harlequins in a scheme that will see both clubs pool their rugby-associated back-up services. Scottish, who won promotion to the first division of the Allied Dunbar Premiership last month, will switch to the Stoop Memorial Ground at the start of next season. After Richmond's departure to Reading, it will mean an end to first-class rugby at the Athletic Ground, at least for the time being.

Both London Scottish and Richmond insist that their long-term goal is to return to a redeveloped 10,000 capacity stadium on the 26-acre site at the Athletic Ground, once the objections of a previously sceptical local planning authority have been overcome.

Kevin McKenzie, of Stirling County, will start as the Scotland hooker for the second international against Australia on Saturday at Ballymore, Brisbane. His selection is the sole change from the team that started the first international last weekend. Ireland have named an unchanged side to take on South Africa at Loftus Versfeld, Pretoria on Saturday.

SCOTLAND (v Australia, Saturday): G Metcalfe, D Lee, C Murray, R Shepherd, S Longstaff, G Townsend, B Redpath, D Hilton, K McKenzie, M Proudfoot, S Murray, S Grimes, R Wainwright (captain), G Simpson, E Peters

IRELAND (v South Africa, Saturday): C O'Shea, J Bishop, M McCall, K Maggs, D Hickie, E Elwood, C McGuinness, J Fitzpatrick, V Wood, P Wallace, P Johns (captain), M O'Kelly, D O'Cuinneagain, A Ward, V Costello



Graf offers evidence of revival

BY JULIAN MUSCAT
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IN SPEAKING eloquently after an experience that she will never forget, Sam Smith summed up the influence of Steffi Graf after the British No 1 had succumbed 1-6, 2-6 at Eastbourne yesterday.

Smith may be no veteran at tackling the best players in the world, but she said of the opening points: "It is difficult to ignore the fact that you are playing Steffi Graf at the other end of the court. It is a formidable sight. You feel you always have to play amazing shots and you are always trying to do too much."

The contest showed Graf, 29, in her most favourable light since she returned to the fray last week. The German looked ominously close to the model that, in its prime, was always worth a start of a game or two on reputation alone.

The hamstring injury that detained Graf for three months was the latest ailment on a lengthy list, yet she has recovered sufficiently to indulge her most rigorous practice routine for the past two weeks. She looked fit and lean, her heavily-sliced backhand and destructive forehand combining to give her latest comeback a genuinely authentic flavour.

Whether she can husband her scarred frame to land an eighth Wimbledon title is another matter, but it was no surprise to hear her say after beating Smith: "I had no difficulty moving and I played well. It was great to be out there, playing in a tournament atmosphere."

Graf said that miserable conditions in Birmingham last week — where she reached the semi-finals before the event was rained off — meant that the balls hardly bounced off the surface. Not so this week, when Graf has genuinely recaptured the grass-court feel. "I am now getting towards playing how I want to," she said. "The preparation [for Wimbledon] is going as I was hoping."

For a player ranked No 112 in the world, Smith, for her part, was understandably nervous for much of the match. That should not obscure the fact that she will be ranked inside the top 100, possibly to a career-best figure, when the world rankings are revised on Monday. "I have had three good weeks," she said. "I feel positive in the run-up to Wimbledon. I am feeling confident and well-prepared."

Graf faces a sterner test in the quarter-finals today when she plays Anna Kournikova, whom she beat on their only previous encounter at the US Open two years ago. A fistful of teenage upstarts have emerged since Graf was playing regularly 13 months ago. Kournikova is one, but another, Venus Williams, collapsed spectacularly yesterday when confronted by the grass-court guile of Natasha Zvereva, of Belarus.

Zvereva, the winner of five Wimbledon doubles titles, won 6-2, 6-1 and Williams will have to improve her grass-court technique if she is to fare better at Wimbledon, where she lost in the first round 12 months ago.

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



The anguish shows as Venus Williams slumps to defeat at Eastbourne yesterday

Word game costs Pioline dear

CEDRIC PIOLINE'S Wimbledon preparations suffered a costly disruption yesterday when he was disqualified from the Nottingham Open for swearing at Pedro Bravo, the umpire, during his second-round match against Scott Draper (Alix Ramsay writes). On a day ruined by rain, Pioline finally snapped when he felt a poor decision by the umpire had cost him a point to leave him struggling to hold service in the second set.

Pioline had been battling to come to terms with the cold and damp conditions and, after an interruption of 55 minutes, had already lost the first set 6-3 to the Stella Artois champion. At 1-1 and 0-15 in the second, Pioline served what he and Draper thought was a let. Draper had managed to get his racket frame to the ball to send back a winning return, although both men looked surprised when the point stood and Pioline was announced to be 0-30 down.

Only when Pioline lost the next point and was facing three break points did he let fly at Bravo, from Chile, swearing at him in French. Having established exactly what Pioline had said, Bravo called a code violation, suspended play and called for Gerry Armstrong, the tournament supervisor. After Armstrong had consulted both the official and the player, Bravo announced that Pioline had been defaulted.

Pioline, runner-up at Wimbledon last year, will lose his prize-money from the event, receive no ranking points and he will be fined an as yet undisclosed amount.

SPORT IN BRIEF

King plans to make swift return

■ **EQUESTRIANISM:** Mary King will miss the world championships in October as she is expecting her second baby in November (Jenny MacArthur writes). However, King, a team gold medal-winner at the European open three-day event championships last September, intends to return in time for the run-up to the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney.

King, 37, won the individual bronze and team gold medals at the 1995 European championships when she was five months pregnant with her first child, Emily.

■ **BOWLS: Anita Haw, a former president of the English Women's Indoor Bowling Association, suffered a surprise defeat in the first round of the national outdoor inter-county championship at Appleby. Haw's rink, largely responsible for Yorkshire's success in the Johns Trophy final last year, lost 26-9 to a Cumbria quartet skipped by Liz Garrity.**

■ **RUGBY LEAGUE:** Stuart Raper, the Australian coach of Castleford Tigers, ended months of speculation about his future by re-signing yesterday with the club until the end of the 1999 season. Raper, who joined from Cronulla 14 months ago and saved the club from relegation last season, had been approached by British and Australian clubs.

■ **SPEEDWAY: Dave Jessup, the new England manager, has brought in one uncapped rider and given a recall to two others in his squad of 12 for three internationals against Australia this summer. Andy Smith and Carl Stonehewer return after long absences, while Glenn Cunningham is included for the first time.**

CRICKET

Gallian on course for welcome century

BY SIMON WILDE

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Kent won toss): Nottinghamshire have scored 184 for two wickets against Kent

A LONG and miserable period may be coming to an end for Jason Gallian. Born and raised in Australia, Gallian has been plagued by injuries and ailments since qualifying for England four years ago. Last winter, he rejected Lancashire's terms and in the winter his father — the guiding figure of his career — died.

Nottinghamshire offered him the chance of a new beginning, but hardly had the season begun than Gallian was nursing a groin strain that prevented him playing again until yesterday. Even now, he is perhaps only 75 per cent fit, but that was good enough for him to bat throughout a shortened day at Canterbury for an unbeaten 74, in sight of his first championship century for two years.

Nottinghamshire, whose struggle for runs has prevented them competing in many championship matches this season, were grateful to have him back and Gallian was grateful to be back. He was earmarked to bat in the middle order but was so eager to get out in the middle that Paul Johnson, his captain, agreed to let him open.

Gallian spent nearly five hours at the crease and, with the help of Tim Robinson, who rediscovered some of his own best form in scoring 56 not out, put Nottinghamshire in a good position after they had been put in on a pitch of greenish hue.

Of these, Gallian and Robinson have added 130 in 48 overs. Even when fully fit and on song, neither is the sort of player to set crowds abuzz. Though their first substantial partnership together was short on entertainment, it was long on value to their side.

At 73 for two, Nottinghamshire were precariously placed at lunch, having lost Dowman after an hour, his off stump plucked out by McCague, and Afzaal leg-before, offering no stroke to Fleming shortly before the interval. Yet in the afternoon session, Gallian and Robinson put on 107 with increasing confidence.

Nottinghamshire may be grateful for Gallian's runs, but they will be more grateful still when he is fit enough to bowl because Dowman, a useful change bowler, was scheduled to have an X-ray after being struck on the foot. He may not bowl for a while.

Nottinghamshire may have had injury problems, but they are nothing compared to the crisis in resources that faced Kent. With Headley and Ealham away with England and Igglesden and Thompson carrying injuries, the county surprisingly picked Jason de la Pena, formerly of Gloucestershire and Surrey, whose most recent first-class appearance was on the St Lawrence ground three years ago, during his Surrey days.

Released by his two previous employers and failing to make an impression during a handful of games for the Middlesex second XI last year, De la Pena, 25, is undergoing a two-month trial with Kent. He returned tidy figures, but his outswinger was little in evidence.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings

M P Dowman b McCague	12
J E R Gallian not out	74
U Afzaal lbw b Fleming	18
R T Robinson not out	56
Extras (lb 10, w 8, nb 6)	24
Total (2 wkts, 73.1 overs)	184

*P Johnson, G F Archer, P J Franks, †C M W Read, P A Strang, M N Bowen and A R Oram to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-54.

BOWLING: McCague 18-7-33-1; Phillips 17.1-2-50-0, De la Pena 13-2-31-0; Fleming 13-4-25-1, Hooper 12-3-35-0.

KENT: D P Fulton, R W T Key, T R Ward, C L Hooper, A P Wells, M J Walker, M V Fleming, *†S A Marsh, J de la Pena, B J Phillips, M J McCague

Umpires: D J Constant and K E Palmer

IAN DUNCAN



Boon, the Durham captain, forces the ball square of the wicket during his painstaking century at the Riverside

Boon makes Yorkshire pay

BY MICHAEL AUSTIN

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four: Yorkshire won toss): Durham have scored 311 for seven wickets against Yorkshire

A WINTER gamble has swiftly rebounded on Yorkshire and was exploited yesterday by David Boon, the Durham captain, who scored the first century at the Riverside this summer. After releasing seven players, Yorkshire began the season with a staff of only 17, reduced by the retirement of Martyn Moxon.

The aftermath for this match was that Yorkshire chose from only 12 fit and available players. They were without Darren Gough and White, their leading bowlers — both injured — and Silverwood, who is on Test duty. These three had captured 58 of the 95 wickets that Yorkshire had taken in six championship games, their absence leaving the side with Stemp as the only capped bowler.

Boon, heavily critical of the Scarborough pitch on which Yorkshire overwhelmed Durham last season, was almost becalmed at times, spending nearly five hours over his fifth championship century, in which he faced 263 balls and struck 11 fours. Boon offered one chance, shin high, to Byas at slip off Stemp after making 12 and consumed the afternoon with a curious cocktail of panache and prodding.

The Yorkshire bowling was a potpourri of the good, the indifferent and the poor, but is was persistent. Unusually, four of the six bowlers used were left-arm, with Hutchison, over-employed through necessity, the most challenging as his initial return of three for 31 testified.

Boon's tactics were based on crease occupation, which was the sensible option because his main allies, Speak, Speight and Foster, slipped by the wayside. Speak scored his fourth championship half-century this summer before being caught via a glove after ducking into a short ball from Hutchison that scarcely rose above his waist. Speight was taken at the wicket from a Stemp delivery that lifted.

Foster, released by Yorkshire four years ago before having a brief sojourn with Northampton, plundered 35 from 36 balls, dominating a sixth-wicket partnership with Boon. Foster struck three consecutive fours off Hamilton before falling into a hooking trap and being caught next ball at long leg.

The perseverance of Hamilton was complemented by the steadiness of Stemp, but Hoggard, 21, playing his second championship game, paid for bowling too many loose deliveries after having Michael Gough expertly taken off the full face of the bat by Wood at short leg.

With Lehmann back for Yorkshire after injury and yet to appear in a winning championship team this season, Boon may not be the only Australian to make a batting impact on this match.

Knight's shining armoury prevails

BY RUPERT COX

ALTHOUGH Sussex must be applauded for their innovations over the past year, the 1pm start at Hove yesterday — introduced in an attempt to draw bigger crowds — was not all that it had been cracked up to be. Having won the toss, Chris Adams, their captain, perhaps disoriented by the late start time, invited Warwickshire to take first use of the wicket. With the decision backfiring and the onset of a chill evening, the crowd did not visibly swell after working hours.

In mitigation, Adams was mindful of Warwickshire's poor start to the championship season, which has seen them acquire only seven batting points from their six matches while slipping into the lower reaches of the table. The chance to make inroads into the visitors' batting, deprived of the stabilising influence of Andy Moles, and "get at" an out-of-sorts Brian Lara early prevailed. But the early start, and morning sunshine dissipated the benefits of the toss.

On the day that England called up two batsmen to cover for an assortment of ailments, Nick Knight, established in the England one-day team, returned to form with a patient century.

Knight has been bowled or leg-before on seven occasions this season and, conscious of the flaw, he watchfully sought occupation of the crease. Although he survived a confident leg-before appeal to James Kirtley's first ball and moved off the mark with a perilous bottom-edged cut, his



Powell: tidy

footwork became more and more assertive as his innings progressed.

Warwickshire had managed only two opening stands exceeding 11, but, on a slow wicket offering minimal seam movement, the Sussex attack lacked the necessary incision, allowing Michael Powell and Knight to prosper. Powell, a neat and tidy opener, spent the winter overhauling his game after a disappointing season in 1997 and exhibited a sound temperament and a full range of strokes.

There were few alarms as Knight and Powell wended their way to lunch with Warwickshire's fourth century stand of the summer. The tempo increased after the interval, as the openers matched each other stroke for stroke. Powell acquired his maiden first-class century as the openers cruised past a 61-year-old record stand against Sussex.

Weather shows game in bad light

BY JOHN STERN

WHEN the Manchester weather proves more suitable for red devils than red roses, as it predictably did last night, these floodlit games, however well-intentioned and innovative the idea behind them may be, can seem rather flat.

This was the second 40-over fixture of the season to be given the day-night makeover. The other one in April between Sussex and Lancashire was a reasonable success in attendance terms, but was played in Arctic conditions at Hove, which was hardly surprising given the time of year. Even the middle of June seems ambitious, but there are 12 more such games planned, mostly in July and August when the temperature ought to be more conducive to encouraging what the announcer kept referring to as "all the fun of the fair".

Lancashire's new name was also unveiled, although a team based in this city called Lancashire Lightning is asking for trouble. Thankfully, we were spared any storms, the only electricity on show belonging to four floodlight pylons, which allowed this Axa League game to run well past the nine o'clock watershed. Perhaps Lancashire looked at other alliterative tags, but found that Surrey had pipped them to it with Lions.

They were not exactly queueing down the Warwick Road for this one, although there was a steady flow through the gates during the early overs after the 5pm start and by half-time there was a crowd of around 4,500 inside Old Trafford. The bucking bronco, which took up one of the corners of H Stand, seemed to receive a deal of young custom in between overs.

Music accompanied wickets, the end of an over and boundaries, and Ian Ward's straight six off Richard Green in the 26th over was greeted by a firework, as was the posting of the 100 in the same over. Maybe this policy could be introduced at Lord's to raise MCC members from their slumbers. Surrey chose to bat first, a decision apparently based solely on the premise that they wanted to bat in natural light. There certainly did not appear to be any other reason for going in first judging by the way the ball moved about in the early overs. Ratcliffe was only half forward to Austin and was given out leg-before, Shahid was bowled through the gate by Martin and Brown pulled Austin to deep square leg.

Adam Hollioake, though, justified his own decision to bat by making a half-century and adding 122 with Ward for the fourth wicket to pull Surrey back into the game. He departed for 70, which came off 88 balls, when Crawley beat his dive with a fine direct hit from short third man. Ward brought up his own half-century before giving a catch but rain curtailed the Surrey innings, which was closed after 39 overs on 182 for six.

Waqar responds to call

BY BARNEY SPENDER

CARDIFF (first day of four: Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 133 for five wickets against Glamorgan

CONDITIONS, as we have come to expect in this most miserable of summers, were grim from the start at Sophia Gardens — wet and grey with a cold westerly wind.

It was hardly the stuff to draw in the after-work crowds that Glamorgan were trying to woo with their noon start, but those who stayed away missed some excellent cricket.

The news of Steve James's call-up to the England squad was met with early euphoria but it meant that, when play began midway through the afternoon, Glamorgan were without four of their regulars. Alun Evans and Steve Watkin were injured while Robert Croft was already at Lord's.

Consequently, Waqar Younis, who has a hamstring problem, and Darren Thomas, who damaged knee ligaments in the last game against Worcestershire, were pressed into service and responded admirably.

Chris Lewis, captaining Leicestershire in the absence of James Whitaker, had an awkward choice on winning the toss but was soon regretting his decision to bat as Waqar, in his most impressive spell of the summer, exploited some uneven bounce to remove Wells, superbly caught by Dale at point, and Sutcliffe in successive balls.

However, Maddy, who may have felt the urge to prove a point to the England selectors concerning the summons of James, began to play some delightful shots as he and Smith added 65 for the third wicket. A fifty looked a certainty until he played a lazy cut off Thomas that flew comfortably to Cosker at backward point. Simmons also fell before the close, splendidly caught by Powell at third man, but Habib and Nixon steadied the ship.

Gloucestershire rue rain

BY PAT GIBSON AND IVO TENNANT

GLOUCESTERSHIRE, who are beginning to believe that they have a realistic chance of winning the county championship for the first time after climbing to fourth in the table with a match in hand on the leaders, Surrey, were frustrated by persistent rain that allowed only 11.4 overs at New Road.

All the drama came off the field when England called for one player from each side, Graeme Hick and Jack Russell, to stand by in case Alec Stewart is not fit for the Lord's Test. If play had begun on time, both would have started the match and been replaced later if necessary. As it was, the game did not get under way until after lunch, by which time both counties had reconciled themselves to having to manage without them.

Worcestershire took the field with Bill Athey, their coach, fielding because Gavin Haynes, Hick's substitute, had to make his way from Teddington, where he was playing for the second XI against Middlesex. Richard Williams, the Gloucestershire reserve wicketkeeper, set off from Bristol after receiving a message on his return from a shopping trip.

In the 50 minutes play that was possible before the rain returned, Gloucestershire reached 37 without loss. There was some evidence of swing for Newport, but none of the edges from Macmillan or Hancock were taken and Worcestershire were further weakened when Sheriyar went off with a side strain after bowling only four overs.

In the 8.3 overs that were possible at Bath, Somerset, who were put in on a decidedly green pitch by Essex, benefited through seven no balls from Ashley Cowan, who had difficulty locating a crease covered with sawdust. Peter Bowler took three successive fours off him in the form of an edge over the slips, a square drive and a cover drive.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Durham v Yorkshire

CHESTER-LE-STREET (first day of four; Yorkshire won toss): Durham have scored 311 for seven wickets against Yorkshire

DURHAM: First Innings

J J B Lewis lbw b Hutchison	22
M A Gough c Wood b Hoggard	0
N J Speak c Blakey b Hutchison	57
*D C Boon not out	120
P D Collingwood b Hutchison	0
†M P Speight c Blakey b Stemp	41
M J Foster c Sidebottom b Hamilton	35
N C Phillips lbw b Sidebottom	4
M M Betts not out	14
Extras (lb 14, nb 4)	18
Total (7 wkts, 100 overs)	311

J Wood and S J Harmison to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-13, 2-35, 3-104, 4-112, 5-205, 6-250, 7-273.

BOWLING: Hoggard 16-3-71-1; Hutchison 19-4-40-3; Hamilton 19-4-56-1; Sidebottom 17-4-58-1; Stemp 24-5-60-1; Lehmann 5-0-12-0.

YORKSHIRE: M P Vaughan, A McGrath, *D Byas, D S Lehmann, M J Wood, †R J Blakey, G M Hamilton, R D Stemp, M J Hoggard, R J Sidebottom, P M Hutchison

Bonus points: Durham 3 Yorkshire 3

Umpires: G I Burgess and T E Jesty

Glamorgan v Leicestershire

CARDIFF (first day of four; Leicestershire won toss): Leicestershire have scored 133 for five wickets against Glamorgan

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells c Dale b Waqar	6
D L Maddy c Cosker b Thomas	40
I J Sutcliffe c Shaw b Waqar	0
B F Smith c Maynard b Butcher	24
P V Simmons c Powell b Thomas	16
A Habib not out	22
†P A Nixon not out	15
Extras (lb 8, nb 2)	10
Total (5 wkts, 44.5 overs)	133

*C C Lewis, J M Dakin, A D Mullally and M T Brimson to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-8, 3-73, 4-73, 5-102

BOWLING: Waqar Younis 9.5-1-23-2, Parkin 9-2-19-0, Cosker 4-1-10-0, Thomas 13-3-50-2, Butcher 9-2-23-1

GLAMORGAN: W L Law, A Dale, M J Powell, *M P Maynard, P A Cottey, G P Butcher, †A D Shaw, Waqar Younis, D A Cosker, S D Thomas, O T Parkin

Bonus points: Glamorgan 2 Leicestershire 0

Umpires: D R Shepherd and A Clarkson

Hampshire v Derbyshire

BASINGSTOKE (first day of four, Hampshire won toss) Derbyshire have scored 245 for six wickets against Hampshire

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings

A S Rollins c Stephenson b Hartley	89
M J Slater lbw b Stephenson	47
T A Tweats lbw b Stephenson	9
K J Barnett b Stephenson	43
M E Cassar c Stephenson b James	10
*†K M Krikken not out	25
P A J DeFreitas c James b James	2
G M Roberts not out	0
Extras (lb 6, w 4, nb 10)	20
Total (6 wkts, 75.3 overs)	245

P Aldred, S J Lacey and K J Dean to bat

FALL OF WICKETS 1-92, 2-116, 3-178, 4-208, 5-226, 6-244

BOWLING: McLean 11-2-37-0; Hartley 20-4-64-1, Udal 3-1-11-0; James 7-2-31-2, Connor 8-0-41-0, Stephenson 19 3-5-47-3, Mascarenhas 7-5-8-0

HAMPSHIRE: G W White, J P Stephenson, *R A Smith, C A Connor, †A N Aymes, A D Mascarenhas, P R Whitaker, S D Udal, P D James, P J Hartley, N A M McLean

Bonus points: Hampshire 2 Derbyshire 1

Umpires: V A Holder and B Leadbeater

Somerset v Essex

BATH (first day of four, Essex won toss) Somerset have scored 45 for no wicket against Essex

SOMERSET: First Innings

*P D Bowler not out	17
P C L Holloway not out	4
Extras (b 5, lb 5, nb 14)	24
Total (no wkt, 8.2 overs)	45

R J Harden, M N Lathwell, S C Ecclestone, †R J Turner, G D Rose, M E Trescothick, Mushtaq Ahmed, A R Caddick and M Bulbeck to bat

BOWLING: Ilott 4.2-4-0-0; Cowan 3-1-34-0; Irani 1-0-1-0.

ESSEX: *P J Prichard, D D J Robinson, A P Grayson, S G Law, R C Irani, S D Peters, †R J Rollins, D R Law, M C Ilott, A P Cowan, P M Such

Umpires: A G T Whitehead and M J Harris

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

WORCESTER (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss) Gloucestershire have scored 37 for no wickets against Worcestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

G I Macmillan not out	20
T H C Hancock not out	15
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (no wkt, 11.4 overs)	37

A J Wright, *M W Alleyne, M G N Windows, D R Hewson, †R C J Williams, M C J Ball, J Lewis, A M Smith and C A Walsh to bat.

BOWLING: Newport 6-0-19-0; Sheriyar 4-0-18-0, Lampitt 1 4-1-0-0

WORCESTERSHIRE: W P C Weston, A Haleem, G R Haynes, V S Solanki, *T M Moody, D A Leatherdale, †S J Rhodes, S R Lampitt, R K Illingworth, P J Newport, A Sheriyar

Umpires: H D Bird and P Willey

NO PLAY YESTERDAY: Northampton: Northamptonshire v Middlesex, no play yesterday, rain

LEADING FIRST-CLASS AVERAGES

Batting

Qualification: 6 completed innings

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Avge	100	50
1 J L Langer	6	11	3	801	233*	100.12	3	2
2 M B Loye	7	10	2	700	322*	87.50	2	2
3 A D Brown	6	7	1	412	155	68.66	2	1
4 G A Hick	8	13	0	887	166	68.23	5	1
5 A N Aymes	6	9	3	406	133	67.66	2	1
6 S P James	6	12	1	733	207	66.63	2	2
7 D Ripley	7	6	0	392	209	65.33	1	2
8 M R Ramprakash	5	8	1	456	128*	65.14	3	—
9 N J Barnett	6	12	3	553	162	61.44	1	4
10 T M Moody	5	7	1	368	122	61.33	2	1
11 M A Butcher	7	9	1	484	109*	60.50	2	3
12 J P Crawley	8	12	2	606	109	58.00	1	3
13 D A Leatherdale	5	9	2	388	108	55.42	1	2
14 M J Powell	5	9	1	438	143	54.75	2	1
15 M G N Windows	5	9	1	422	144	52.75	2	1
16 V J Wells	6	9	1	474	105	53.66	1	3
17 P Collingwood	6	7	1	302	114	50.33	1	1
18 G P Thorpe	6	11	1	497	106	49.70	1	2
19 S G Law	4	6	0	287	124	47.83	1	1
20 N Shahid	5	7	0	321	100	45.85	1	1
21 J D Ratcliffe	5	8	0	365	124	45.62	1	1
22 A Fordham	7	11	2	399	108	44.33	2	2
23 M J Wood	7	12	1	487	86	44.27	—	2
24 M P Vaughan	4	8	2	263	64	43.83	—	2
25 S D Peters	5	10	1	394	152	43.77	2	—
26 M A Atherton	7	12	1	480	125	43.63	1	4
27 W G Khan								

not including yesterday's play

* denotes not out

Bowling

Qualification: 10 wickets in one innings

	O	M	R	W	Avge	BB	5i	10m
1 C White	132.1	33	348	25	13.92	8-55	2	—
2 M V Fleming	112.3	39	240	16	15.00	4-24	—	—
3 M M Betts	204.2	52	578	34	17.00	6-83	4	—
4 M P Bicknell	185.1	57	460	27	17.03	5-27	1	—
5 A D Mullally	188.3	75	453	26	17.42	5-72	1	—
6 M Bulbeck	71	16	244	14	17.42	3-10	—	—
7 G W Headley	153.2	38	410	23	17.82	6-71	1	—
8 Saqlain Mushtaq	190.3	58	436	24	18.16	7-41	1	1
9 A F Giles	66	18	184	10	18.40	4-60	—	—
10 C E W Silverwood	145.3	34	472	24	19.66	5-13	2	—
11 A A Donald	81	21	238	12	19.83	6-58	1	—
12 E S H Giddins	249.2	54	732	36	20.33	8-79	3	1
13 M J Foster	83	18	246	12	20.50	4-41	—	—
14 M C Ilott	158.3	46	405	19	21.31	4-49	—	—
15 M J Rawnsley	83.3	18	256	12	21.33	6-44	2	1
16 C A Walsh	216.4	47	748	35	21.37	6-42	2	1
17 A R C Fraser	130.5	27	385	18	21.38	4-39	—	—
18 A D Mascarenhas	78.3	17	280	13	21.53	4-31	—	—
19 G Chapple	141.1	26	442	20	22.10	5-48	1	—
20 S L Watkin	222.3	63	582	26	22.38	5-30	1	—
21 C L Hooper	168.1	54	340	15	22.66	7-93	1	—
22 I D K Salisbury	236.2	75	525	23	22.82	5-98	1	—
23 M N Bowen	217	61	530	23	23.04	7-73	1	—
24 P J Martin	183	41	489	21	23.28	4-56	—	—
25 J Lewis	187.5	35	630	27	23.33	6-48	2	—
26 A R Caddick	256.3	58	777	33	23.54	5-80	1	—
27 J D Lewry	180	47	546	23	23.73	6-72	1	—

□ Source: ECB, PA Cricket Record

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES 0171-782 7344

PUBLIC NOTICES

BURKE, PATRICK BURKE late of Banstead, Surrey died there on 19 July 1996 (Estate about £6,000)
CAMPBELL, JOHN CAMPBELL late of Worthing, West Sussex died there on 18 March 1997 (Estate about £5,500)
CHAPMAN, FREDERICK CHAPMAN late of Deal, Kent died at Ashford, Kent on 28 February 1997 (Estate about £30,000)
COOK, HARRY RONALD COOK late of Swanage, Dorset died at Poole, Dorset on 16 January 1998 (Estate about £8,500)
DANGER, RICHARD HENRY DANGER late of Kensington, London SW10 died there on 1 December 1997 (Estate about £50,000)
EDMONDS nee MARTIN, DOROTHY EDMONDS otherwise THERESA EDMONDS nee MARTIN WIDOW late of Romford, West Yorkshire died at Ilkley, West Yorkshire on 21 January 1998 (Estate about £50,000)
FARIAN, RUTH KLARA PHILLIPINE FARIAN SPINSTER late of Silverdey, Herefordshire died there on 22 August 1996 (Estate about £30,000)
FOGERTY, HENRY FOGERTY late of Bristol died there on 12 July 1997 (Estate about £7,000)
GALLOWAY otherwise MOLE, WILLIAM UPTON GALLOWAY otherwise WILLIAM UPTON MOLE otherwise WILLIAM MOLE late of Doncaster, South Yorkshire died there on 27 December 1997 (Estate about £200,000)
HAREOD, CYRIL BERTRAM HAREOD late of Bordesley Green, Birmingham died there on 15 December 1992 (Estate about £20,000)
LYSENKO, ALEXSANDER LYSENKO otherwise ALEXANDER LYSENKO late of Felixstowe, Suffolk died there on 13 May 1997 (Estate about £33,000)
MERRITT, WILLIAM HENRY MERRITT late of West Drayton, Middlesex died there on 29 December 1996 (Estate about £5,600)
PAGE, ELAINE MARGARET PAGE SPINSTER late of Oxford died there on 14 July 1997 (Estate about £19,000)
The widow/widower and kin of the above named are requested to apply to the Treasury Solicitor (B V), Queen Anne's Chambers, 28 Broadway, London SW1H 9JS, failing which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.

CHY-1161D
Charity Commission
CHARITY CHARITY FOR A SANATORIUM IN CONNECTION WITH ETON COLLEGE
REFERENCE: LT/99736/3952650/CCO
The Charity Commission have made a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy can be seen for the next month at THE CHARITY OFFICE, THE BURSARY, ETON COLLEGE, WINDSOR, BERKS SL4 6DB, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to Charity Commission, Woodfield House, Tangier, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4BL, quoting the above reference.

PATRICK FRANCIS JOURDAN FREEMAN DECEASED. Formerly trading as John Newton & Sons of 123 Cannon Street London late of 7 Croft Road Reigate East Sussex and 9 Queens Road Ealing London who died on 26 May 1998. Would anyone with knowledge of a will please contact Englebarts of 18 Hurstingston Road Hove East Sussex BN3 3YR, tel. 01273 204411, ref: LE/AC

LEGAL NOTICES

RUDDY PLC
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a Meeting of the Creditors of the above named Company will be held at the offices of Chantrey Vellacott, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5LF, on 22 June, 1998 at 2.45pm for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5LF between 10.00 a.m. and 4.00 p.m. on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
By Order of the Board
P Ruddy - Director

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 1096 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
BRISTOL DISTRICT REGISTRY
IN THE MATTER OF RES TRUSTEES PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 2 June 1998 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice Bristol District Registry for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company as at 30 September 1997 by reduction of the share premium account of the above named Company from £141,770.00 to £2,340.00.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before one of the Chancery Judges at Court 13, The Guildhall, Small Street, Bristol, BS1 1DA at 10.30am on Thursday, the 9th day of July 1998. ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated the 9th day of June 1998
AINSLEY SARGENT & PROBERT, Ref RGG/BMC/169513
4, 5 & 6, Bramfield Crescent, EXETER, Devon EX1 1EF.
Tel: 01392 411221
Fax: 01392 202420
Solicitors for the above-named Company.

RULE 4.106 OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
Metrubian Limited
(In Liquidation)
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, the undersigned David John Mason of Moreton Thornton & Co, Torrington House, 47 Holywell Hill, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 1HD was appointed Liquidator of Metrubian Limited by a resolution of a meeting of the company's creditors held on 11 June 1998.
David John Mason, Liquidator
DATED this 11 June 1998

CRAMPTON AND SONS LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP/IN LIQUIDATION)
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
In accordance with rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, I, Ian Peter Phillips and Simon Vincent Frankley of Buchler Phillips, 24 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FH, give notice that on 1 June 1998 we were appointed Joint Liquidators of Crampton and Sons Limited by resolutions of members and creditors. Notice is hereby given that the creditors of the above named company, which is being voluntary wound up, are required, on or before 10 July 1998 to send in their full names, their addresses and descriptions, full particulars of their debts or claims, and the names and addresses of their Solicitors (if any), to the undersigned I P Phillips of 24 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FH, the Joint Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Joint Liquidator, are, personally or by their Solicitors, to come in and prove their debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution.
Dated 10th June 1998
I P Phillips, Joint Liquidator

No. 002694 of 1998
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
FOCUS DYNAMICS PLC
AND IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Order of the High Court of Justice (Chancery Division) dated 10th June 1998 confirming the reduction of the share premium account of the above-named Company from £13,322,513 to £7,691,513 was registered by the Registrar of Companies on 12th June 1998.
DATED this 16th June 1998
Shoosmiths & Harrison
Lock House
Castle Meadow Road
NOTTINGHAM
NG2 1AG
Tel: 0115 906 5000
Fax: 0115 906 5001
Dx: 10104 Nottingham 1
Ref: NMT
Solicitors for the above-named Company

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceases named, marked before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

CAROL COLEEN SCOTT deceased
PURSUANT TO THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925
Notice is hereby given that any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Carol Coleen Scott late of Flat 44, 25 Pembroke Place, London W2 who died on the third day of November 1997 and whose Will was proved at the Winchester Probate Registry on the 18th day of February 1998, the Executor named in the said Will is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, the Solicitor for the said Executor on or before the 19th day of August 1998, after which date the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which he shall then have had notice.
Dated this 18th day of June 1998.
Percy Hale & Co, 5 Rampard Road, Purley CR8 3EL
DX 59603 PURLEY
Solicitor for the said Executor

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES
TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION
PLEASE TELEPHONE
0171 680 6878
FAX: 0171 481 9313
Notices are subject to confirmation and should be received by 2.30pm two days prior to insertion.

THE WORLD CUP TODAY

GROUP C

FRANCE v SAUDI ARABIA

FROM OLIVER HOLT

France will perform their own version of bringing football home in Paris tonight when they run out at their new headquarters, the Stade de France, for the first time in the World Cup and attempt to secure qualification for the second round. Their comfortable 3-0 victory over a poor South Africa side last week lifted some of the crushing weight of pressure that seems to have been building on them for so long. If they beat a Saudi Arabia team that drew 0-0 with England at Wembley last month, and Denmark beat South Africa, France are certain to progress — and a clash with Spain is beginning to loom.

Given the expectations that have been heaped upon them, it was the manner of their victory that was so impressive against South Africa. It was achieved with some flair and great efficiency, and the central defensive pairing of Marcel Desailly and Laurent Blanc looked particularly solid. Consequently, the news yesterday that Frank Leboeuf, the Chelsea player, had sustained an injury hardly provoked a wailing and gnashing of teeth here.

Even the great problem that had been occupying the nation, the lack of a prolific striker to finish off the midfield work of Didier Deschamps, Zinedine Zidane and Youri Djorkaeff appeared to have veered towards a solution with goals from Christophe Dugarry and Thierry Henry that should give both of them confidence for tonight.

There are those who have suggested that Dugarry owes his place in the France squad to his friendship with Zidane, the team captain. He was included at the expense of Nicolas Anelka, but was left out of the starting line-up last Friday and got his chance only when Stéphane Guivarc'h was injured in the first half. Dugarry came on, scored the first goal and, with Guivarc'h still not fit, seems certain to keep his place.

FRANCE (probable; 4-4-2): 16 F Barthez — 15 L Thuram, 5 L Blanc, 8 M Desailly, 3 B Lizarazu — 6 Y Djorkaeff, 7 D Deschamps, 10 Z Zidane, 17 E Petit — 21 C Dugarry, 12 T Henry.
SAUDI ARABIA (probable; 3-4-1-2): 1 M Al-Daeya — 3 M Al-Khlaiwi, 4 A Zubromawi, 6 F Amin — 14 K Al-Muwaild, 5 A Madani, 7 I Al-Shahrani, 11 F Al-Mihalle — 10 S Al-Owairan — 9 S Al-Jaber, 8 O Al-Doussari
Referee: A Brizio Carter (Mexico).
COVERAGE: Television: BBC1 (from 7.30pm); Eurosport (from 7.30pm). Radio: Radio 5 Live (from 7.30pm). Kick-off: 8pm.

HOT SHOTS

3: M Salas (Chile).
2: L Hernández (Mexico).
1: César Sampaio (Brazil), J Collins (Scotland), D Eggen (Norway), M Hadji (Morocco), A Hadda (Morocco), C Vieri (Italy), R Baggio (Italy), P Njanka (Cameroon), A Polster (Austria), M Rieper (Denmark), C Dugarry (France), T Henry (France), F Hierro (Spain), Raúl (Spain), M Adepoju (Nigeria), R Pelaez (Mexico), S Oliseh (Nigeria), Ha Seok Ju (South Korea), G Batistuta (Argentina), S Mihajlovic (Yugoslavia), M Stanic (Croatia), R Prosinecki (Croatia), D Suker (Croatia), R Earle (Jamaica), A Shearer (England), P Scholes (England), A Ilie (Romania), A Möller (Germany), J Klinsmann (Germany), H Flo (Norway), C Burley (Scotland), Ronaldo (Brazil), Rivaldo (Brazil), Bebeto (Brazil), I Vastic (Austria).

IN THE NET

The Times World Cup 98
http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup
Coupe du Monde 98
http://www.france98.com
Fifa 1998 World Cup
http://www.fifa.com
BBC World Cup 1998
http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldcup
Yahoo World Cup
http://www.yahoo.co.uk/worldcup
Sky
http://www.sky.co.uk/worldcup
Football 365
http://www.football365.co.uk

Sunday July 12	Final		8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk
Saturday July 11	Third-place play-off		8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk
July 9 & 10	REST DAYS				
Wednesday July 8	Winner 9	Winner 12	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk
Tuesday July 7	Winner 10	Winner 11	8pm	Marseilles	tba, R5L/Talk
July 5 & 6	REST DAYS				
Saturday July 4	11. Winner 6	Winner 8	3.30pm	Marseilles	tba, R5L/Talk
	12. Winner 5	Winner 7	8pm	Lyons	tba, R5L/Talk
Friday July 3	9. Winner 1	Winner 3	3.30pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk
	10. Winner 2	Winner 4	8pm	Nantes	tba, R5L/Talk
July 1 & 2	REST DAYS				
Tuesday June 30	7. Winner G	Runner-up H	3.30pm	Bordeaux	tba, R5L/Talk
	8. Winner H	Runner-up G	8pm	St Etienne	tba, R5L/Talk
Monday June 29	5. Winner F	Runner-up E	3.30pm	Montpellier	tba, R5L/Talk
	6. Winner E	Runner-up F	8pm	Toulouse	tba, R5L/Talk
Sunday June 28	3. Winner C	Runner-up D	3.30pm	Lens	tba, R5L/Talk
	4. Winner D	Runner-up C	8pm	Stade de France	tba, R5L/Talk
Saturday June 27	1. Winner B	Runner-up A	3.30pm	Marseilles	tba, R5L/Talk
	2. Brazil	Runner-up B	8pm	Parc des Princes	tba, R5L/Talk
Friday June 26	Group H	Japan v Jamaica	3pm	Lyons	ITV
	Group H	Argentina v Croatia	3pm	Bordeaux	ITV, R5L/Talk
	Group G	Romania v Tunisia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC
	Group G	Colombia v England	8pm	Lens	BBC, R5L/Talk
Thursday June 25	Group E	Belgium v South Korea	3pm	Parc des Princes	BBC, R5L
	Group E	Holland v Mexico	3pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk
	Group F	Germany v Iran	8pm	Montpellier	ITV, R5L
	Group F	United States v Yugoslavia	8pm	Nantes	ITV
Wednesday June 24	Group C	France v Denmark	3pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L/Talk
	Group C	South Africa v Saudi Arabia	3pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L
	Group D	Spain v Bulgaria	8pm	Lens	ITV, R5L
	Group D	Nigeria v Paraguay	8pm	Toulouse	ITV
Tuesday June 23	Group B	Italy v Austria	3pm	Stade de France	ITV, R5L/Talk
	Group B	Chile v Cameroon	3pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L
	Group A	Scotland v Morocco	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk
	Group A	Brazil v Norway	8pm	Marseilles	BBC
Monday June 22	Group G	Colombia v Tunisia	4.30pm	Montpellier	BBC, R5L/Talk
	Group G	Romania v England	8pm	Toulouse	ITV, R5L/Talk
Sunday June 21	Group F	Germany v Yugoslavia	1.30pm	Lens	BBC, R5L
	Group H	Argentina v Jamaica	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV, R5L/Talk
	Group F	United States v Iran	8pm	Lyons	BBC, R5L
Saturday June 20	Group H	Japan v Croatia	1.30pm	Nantes	ITV, R5L
	Group E	Belgium v Mexico	4.30pm	Bordeaux	BBC, R5L/Talk
	Group E	Holland v South Korea	8pm	Marseilles	ITV, R5L
Friday June 19	Group D	Nigeria v Bulgaria	4.30pm	Parc des Princes	ITV
	Group D	Spain v Paraguay	8pm	St Etienne	BBC, R5L/Talk
Thursday June 18	Group C	South Africa v Denmark	4.30pm	Toulouse	ITV, Talk
	Group C	France v Saudi Arabia	8pm	Stade de France	BBC, R5L
Wednesday June 17	Group B	Chile 1 (Salas 70)	Austria 1 (Vastic 90)		36,000
	Group B	Italy v Cameroon	8pm	Montpellier	
Tuesday June 16	Group A	Scotland 1 (Burley 67)	Norway 1 (H Flo 46)		30,236
	Group A	Brazil 3 (Ronaldo 9; Rivaldo 45; Bebeto 50)	Morocco 0		33,266
Monday June 15	Group G	England 2 (Shearer 42; Scholes 90)	Tunisia 0		54,587
	Group G	Romania 1 (Ilie 45)	Colombia 0		37,572
	Group F	Germany 2 (Möller 9; Klinsmann 65)	United States 0		43,815
Sunday June 14	Group H	Argentina 1 (Batistuta 28)	Japan 0		33,400
	Group F	Yugoslavia 1 (Mihajlovic 73)	Iran 0		30,392
	Group H	Jamaica 1 (Earle 45)	Croatia 3 (Stanic 27; Prosinecki 53; Suker 69)		38,058
Saturday June 13	Group D	Spain 2 (Hierro 21; Raúl 47)	Nigeria 3 (Adepoju 24; Zubizarreta 73, og; Oliseh 78)		33,257
	Group E	South Korea 1 (Ha Seok Ju 27)	Mexico 3 (Pelaez 51; Hernandez 74, 82)		37,588
	Group E	Holland 0	Belgium 0		75,000
Friday June 12	Group D	Paraguay 0	Bulgaria 0		27,650
	Group C	Saudi Arabia 0	Denmark 1 (Rieper 68)		38,140
	Group C	France 3 (Dugarry 35; Issa 78, og; Henry 90)	South Africa 0		55,077
Thursday June 11	Group B	Italy 2 (Vieri 10; R Baggio 85, pen)	Chile 2 (Salas 45, 50)		31,800
	Group B	Cameroon 1 (Njanka 77)	Austria 1 (Polster 90)		33,460
Wednesday June 10	Group A	Brazil 2 (César Sampaio 4; Boyd 73, og)	Scotland 1 (Collins 38, pen)		80,000
	Group A	Morocco 2 (Hadji 38; Hadda 59)	Norway 2 (Chippo 45, og; Eggen 61)		29,750

FINAL
THIRD PLACE PLAY-OFF
SEMI-FINALS
QUARTER-FINALS
SECOND ROUND (KNOCKOUT)
FIRST ROUND

The top two teams in each group qualify for the second round. Teams finishing level on points are split by: 1, goal difference; 2, goals scored; 3, the result between the tied nations; and 4, the drawing of lots

THE GROUPS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Norway	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Scotland	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Morocco	2	0	1	1	2	5	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chile	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Austria	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Italy	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Cameroon	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Denmark	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
S Arabia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
South Africa	1	0	0	1	0	3	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Bulgaria	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Paraguay	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Spain	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Belgium	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Holland	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
South Korea	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Yugoslavia	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Iran	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
US	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Romania	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Colombia	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Tunisia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Croatia	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Argentina	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Japan	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Jamaica	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

GROUP C

SOUTH AFRICA v DENMARK

FROM MATT DICKINSON

Among the fascinating revelations on the official World Cup website is the news that, after victory over Saudi Arabia, "the Danes and their entourage accompanied about 40 beers with their energetic fruits". One must hope that the combination of Carlsberg and energetic bananas has imbued Denmark with a little more zest since that soporific 1-0 victory over the weakest team in group C. Lucky to be drawn in such an undaunting group, Denmark go into the game against South Africa this afternoon with a plausible route to the last eight opening up in only their second finals appearance.

If they can overcome a team dispirited by the 3-0 beating at the hands of France, Peter Schmeichel and crew can go into the final group game against the host nation with qualification assured and a possible second-round meeting with the unpredictable Nigerians awaiting. The opportunity to go where no Dane has been before on the world stage beckons, but too much appears to rest on the shoulders of Brian Laudrup, who may be finding, as he will at Chelsea, that not everyone defends like Motherwell.

Of course, all of Denmark's optimistic gazing beyond the group stage could be undone should South Africa prove they have the resilience to bounce back from that defeat by France. Philippe Troussier, the coach who has gone suddenly coy about his possible move to Sheffield Wednesday this summer, said: "We knew the chances of beating France were almost zero," he said, "so that was a training match. I always said the Denmark game was the most important." With Phil Masinga, the former Leeds United striker, injured, Shaun Bartlett comes in. Benni McCarthy is fit to start.

DENMARK (probable, 5-3-2): 1 P Schmeichel — 3 M Rieper, 4 J Hoegh, 12 S Colding, 2 M Schjonberg, 6 T Helveg — 14 M Wieghorst, 21 M Jorgensen, 10 M Laudrup — 11 B Laudrup, 19 E Sand
SOUTH AFRICA (probable; 5-3-2): 1 H Vonk — 4 W Jackson, 21 P Issa, 5 M Fish, 19 L Radebe, 3 D Nyathi — 10 J Moshoeu, 7 Q Fortune, 12 B Augustine — 9 S Bartlett, 17 B McCarthy.
Referee: J Toro Rendón (Colombia).
COVERAGE: Television: ITV (from 4.15pm); Eurosport (as live, from 10pm). Radio: Talk Radio. Kick-off: 4.30pm.

CARDS

YELLOW

Austria: A Pfeffer, P Schottel. **Belgium:** L Staelens, E Deflandre. **Brazil:** César Sampaio (2), Aldair, Junior Baiano. **Bulgaria:** A Nankov, H Stoichkov, T Ivanov. **Cameroon:** S Ipoua. **Chile:** N Parraguez, C Acuña, F Rojas, M Villarroel, F Estay, M Salas, I Zamorano. **Colombia:** J Santa. **Croatia:** Z Soldo. **Denmark:** A Nielsen, M Rieper, M Wieghorst. **England:** S Campbell. **France:** D Deschamps, E Petit, Z Zidane. **Germany:** J Jeremies, D Hamann, J Heinrich. **Italy:** A di Livio, F Carnavaro. **Jamaica:** D Burton. **Japan:** M Ihara, E Nakanishi, T Hirano. **Mexico:** J Ordiales, A Garcia Espe. **Morocco:** S Chiba (2), A Hadda. **Nigeria:** U Okechukwu. **Norway:** K Rekdal, H Berg. **Paraguay:** M Benitez. **Romania:** I Filipescu, D Munteanu, D Petrescu. **Saudi Arabia:** K Al-Muwaild. **Scotland:** D Jackson (2), G Durie. **Spain:** G Amor, M A Nadal, I Campo. **South Korea:** Lee Min Sung. **Tunisia:** J Clayton, I Ben-Younes, K Ghodbane. **United States:** F Hejduk; E Pope. **Yugoslavia:** Z Petrovic, D Stojkovic.

RED

Bulgaria: A Nankov. **Holland:** P Kluivert. **South Korea:** Ha Seok Ju.

TELEVISION

All matches also shown live or in full on Eurosport. BBC and ITV details after June 26 depend on first-round results

RADIO

R5L: Radio 5 Live, 909 and 693 MW
Talk: Talk Radio, 1053 to 1089 MW
All times BST

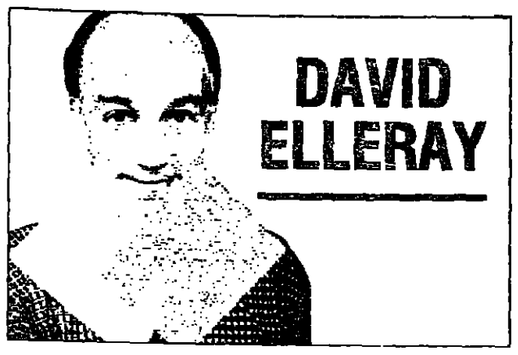
THE CHAMPIONS

Brazil	1958,	1962,	1970,	1994
Italy	1934,	1938,	1982	
Germany	1954,	1974,	1990	
Uruguay	1930,	1950		
Argentina	1978,	1986		
England	1966			

GRAPHIC BY GRAHAM BIRD

WORLD CUP 98

Referees consistently falling short of Fifa's official line



DAVID ELLERAY

AFTER all the fears that overstrict refereeing would spoil this World Cup, the sad fact is that the first week of matches has been notable for increasingly weak officiating that has failed to protect the skilful players and promote attacking play.

In the opening game between Brazil and Scotland, many said that Jose Manuel Garcia Aranda, from Spain, refereed sensibly: he was tough, but not too tough. However, I thought that even in that game there were worrying signs that the refereeing was not going to be as strict as Fifa had indicated and the tournament needed.

I think one or two incidents required stronger action. Gordon Durie was fractionally late, early on, and the referee gave him the benefit of the doubt and only spoke to him. Then, in the 61st minute, after there had already been a couple of bookings, Durie tackled two-footed, slightly jumping, which was at least a yellow-card offence. Yet nothing happened. That has seemed to be the trend since.

The game later that day, Norway against Morocco, had a Thai referee, Pirom Un-Prasert. He did pretty well and many people might have been saying, at the end of the first day, that the refereeing hadn't gone over the top and there hadn't been the rash of red cards that everyone had feared. That was the great irony: the players had responded to all the warnings, but perhaps the referees had not.

The next day, we saw the first poor referee, Lucien Ouschardeau, from Nigeria, for the Italy v Chile game. He gave a number of yellow cards, but, ultimately, did not deal with the bad tackling. He allowed the Chileans to waste a lot of time and, in the opening quarter of the match, there were a couple of tackles that merited cautions.

> 'Standards have gone steadily downhill'

He also gave a very poor handball decision, for a penalty, in favour of Italy. It was one of those decisions where some might have said that it was a penalty because it interfered with the play. According to the laws, though, it was not because handball has to be intentional. The ball was clearly kicked at the player's hand and, if anything, he was trying to move his hand out of the way.

Since the Italy v Chile game, the overall standard of refereeing has gone steadily downhill. Not only have some outrageous tackles — such as Chiba's on Ronaldo, in the Brazil v Morocco game on Tuesday night — gone unpunished, but there have been offences that should have had yellow cards because of their persistent nature or the tactical advantage that they gained.

That was highlighted in the England game against Tunisia, when Alan Shearer and other England players were constantly pushed and almost wrestled to the ground in the attacking third of the pitch and yet Masayoshi Okada, the Japanese referee, took no action. He did nothing, either, when the Tunisia goalkeeper was wasting time. He seemed to lack any ability to give more than a free kick for tactical offences and persistent fouling. The Tunisia captain must have fouled Shearer four or five times in the second half. Not blatantly, but they deserved more than just a free kick because they cynically stopped attacking moves.

So far, we have seen only two players sent off for fouls and yet there have been a lot of tackles from behind, some nasty ones, that have not been properly dealt with. At the same time, Sol Campbell certainly committed two offences in the first half that could have brought yellow cards. This would have meant that his offence in the second half would have been a second yellow and he would have been off.

Whatever disciplinary level you start at, in any tournament, it tapers off as time goes on. That is the real worry for the later stages of this World Cup. Because there has been so little controversy, people have been lulled into a false sense of security and many fans would say the refereeing has been quite good. Not too many cards, nothing silly, but the signs are there. We saw them in the England and Brazil games this week, when the good teams suffered at the hands of those sides who used all manner of means to stop players.

What concerns me is that the tournament is not into the second round of matches, which could decide which countries finish as group winners or runners-up and which countries leave the tournament. From now on, the games are going to get more and more competitive and there is not this underlying standard of strong refereeing in the back of the players' minds.

There are positive aspects to have emerged. Ten yards at free kicks has been pretty well controlled, dissent has been low and showing the amount of stoppage time has been beneficial. In a way, though, these are the small things. It is the physical side of the game that I am most concerned about.

Sepp Blatter, the next Fifa president, said this week that referees should apply more rigidly the ruling on tackles from behind. Michel Platini has said that referees who duck the most important issues will be on the first plane home. Who will be the first ref to receive a Platini red card?

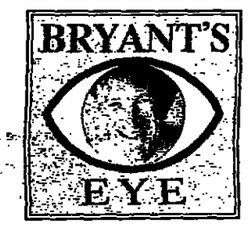
☐ Referee, *by David Elleray, is published by Bloomsbury (£16.99) in August. To reserve your copy, call Exel Cash Sales on 01634 297123.*

PETER KNEFFEL



The injury inflicted on Ronaldo emphasised the need for referees to take stronger action

Hooligans' unlikely ally has valid points



Can it be long before the football terraces erupt to the wonderful, though unlikely chant of "There's only one Alan Clark"? And will we see our brave football hooligans paying homage to their new champion by sporting "I love Alan Clark" tattoos?

The Conservative MP and former minister has come to the defence of English football troublemakers this week by asserting that they are unfairly the target of French police and by daring to suggest that perhaps the North African gangs of supporters had something to do with the rioting, too.

Clark has provoked hostility all round, not least from William Hague, the leader of the Conservative Party, by saying that, in an age when football matches have "taken over the role of medieval tournaments", it is "perfectly natural" that some fans will go looking for a fight. He said that the fact that rival groups of supporters seek them out for battle is a compliment to the "English martial spirit".

Those who see themselves as several rungs further up the ladder of civilisation than the football supporters who ran amok in Marseilles are predictably squealing with anger — but Clark does have some points.

The first is that these are predominantly white working-class males who like a fight. We are shocked by what happened in France, but only because we have been fooled by the likes of Chelsea and the two Tonys — Banks and Blair — into thinking that football is a middle-class sport. It is not.

Football's mass spectators have always come from the working classes and from neighbourhoods where status among the young was often the reward for being the hardest, roughest and meanest on the block. Also, as Clark complains, what happened in Marseilles this week, while shameful, has been hyped out of all proportion when you look at the numbers arrested.

If you really want to see football thuggery, you should go to South America. Four weeks ago, three fans were killed in a shoot-out between gangs and the police outside a stadium in Buenos Aires and a judge suspended local championship football.

In Argentina, a big grudge match like Boca Juniors v River Plate will see armed riot police lining every approach road to the ground. Gangs of supporters, such as Boca's "Barrabravas" (Ghetto Boys), arm themselves with guns and knives and their motto is "football or death".

The thousands who get into the game chant ritual abuse, let off a stream of flares and fight fiercely if they are allowed near each other. The football is secondary — they are there to do battle. Interestingly, the hostility between Boca and River Plate is based on a class and political divide that Clark would recognise.

Boca are a working-class team, while River Plate are sited in a more middle-class part of Buenos Aires. Four years ago, four Boca Barrabravas were jailed for shooting dead three River Plate supporters. Banners saluting these imprisoned heroes are still waved around the ground.

It is a common misconception, too, that football hooliganism first became a problem in Great Britain in the 1960s. It has been around as long as the game. Eric Dunning, the director of the Centre for Research into Sport and Society at Leicester University, points out that hooliganism has followed a U-shaped curve, being relatively high before the First World War, falling between the wars and remaining relatively low until the Fifties. Then, from the late Sixties, it escalated rapidly.

All manner of explanations have been offered over the years for the behaviour of the hooligans. Sportswriters, historians and sociologists have all advanced their diagnoses — but no one has come up with the cure.

The early administrators of sport wanted it to be a civilising process. They took the ritualised gang warfare of earlier football codes and imposed on them rigid controls. They got rid of sports like bull-baiting, cock-fighting and cat-burning and turned primitive rugby and football into games with what they considered to be civilised rules.

Yet the problem lies not in the game or its rules, but in the social values of football's followers. The brutal truth is that a significant proportion of the game's fans are only interested in fighting. They revel in mass recreational violence. That is why they turn up.

For them, as Dunning points out, "the match is principally about expressing their machismo, either factually, by inflicting defeat on the rival fans and making them run away, or symbolically, via the medium of aggressive and de-masculinising songs and chants".

Perhaps, after all, we should be grateful to Clark and his provocative views for giving us an insight into the mind of the hooligan. He shares their experience of crude and cruel violence — "I've played the Eton Wall Game" — and he defends them robustly as victims.

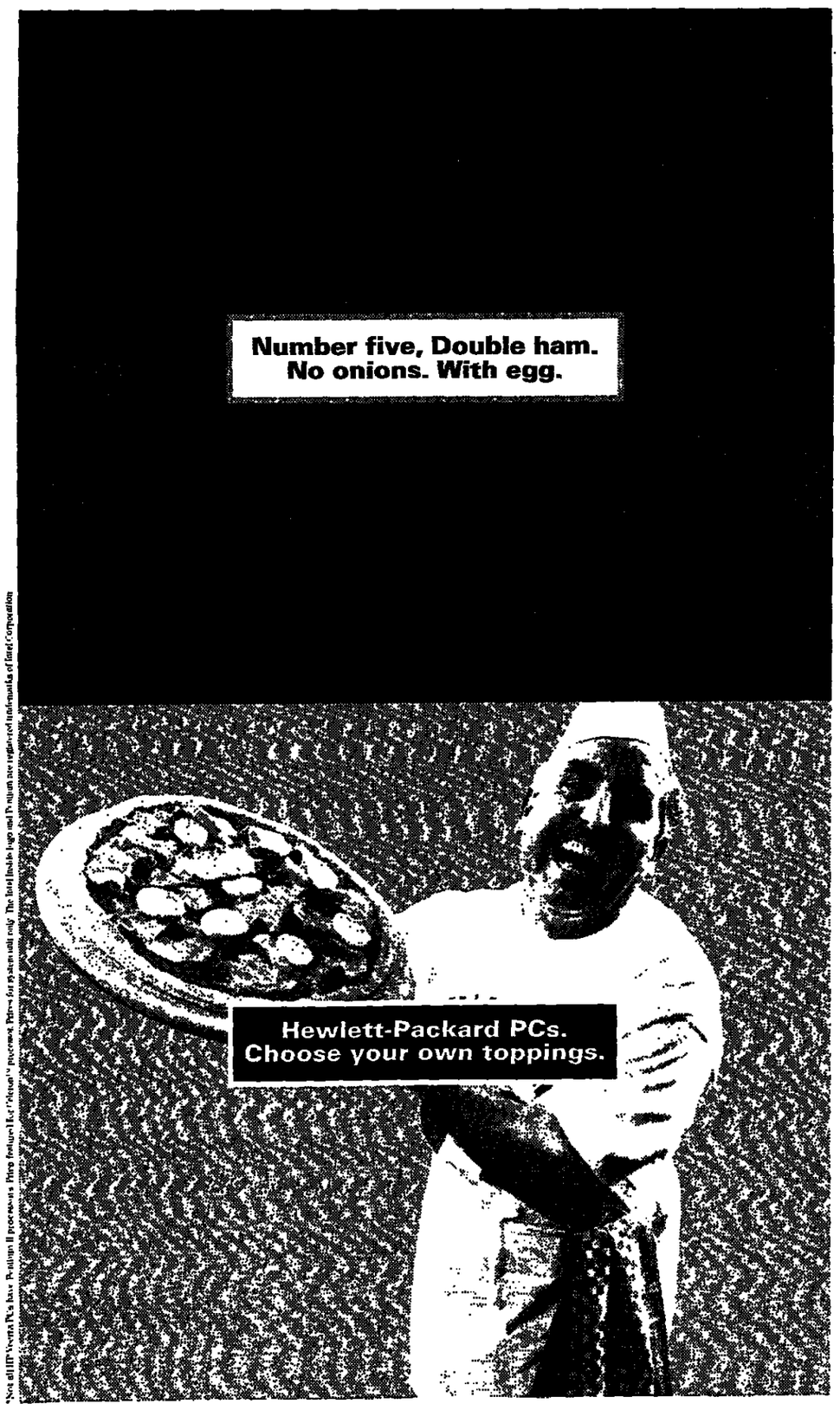
Brave words. But there are those who will take Clark seriously only when he starts inviting his new-found football friends round to tea at Saltwood Castle. They can bring their own bottles.

JOHN BRYANT



Football hooliganism from the Fifties, as spectators invade the pitch at Stamford Bridge

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WORLD CUP 98

Chile kept waiting for elusive victory

JUST as they had against Italy, in their opening group B match, Chile conceded a late goal here yesterday to be denied their first victory in the World Cup finals for 36 years. In a match short on creativity, Ivica Vastic, a second-half substitute, scored in the second minute of stoppage time with only Austria's second effort on goal in the match.

Vastic's equaliser cancelled out a 69th-minute goal from Marcelo Salas, who, having netted twice against Italy, went clear as the tournament's leading scorer. Salas's goal was not one of his specials, neither a leaping header nor an unstoppable volley. He can scramble the ball in from a yard, too.

Austria supporters must be living on their nerves because, in both of their matches now, they have scored late equalisers. Toni Polster, who scored in their first match, against

	1	1
	CHILE	AUSTRIA
	Salas (70)	Vastic (90)

(St Etienne, 36,000)

FROM DAVID POWELL

Cameroon, reached a milestone yesterday when he equalled Gerhard Hanappi's record number of 93 caps for Austria, established in the Fifties.

Whether the free kick that led to the Chile goal should have been awarded is open to debate. The decision to penalise Mahlich for what appeared to be an innocuous challenge on Acuña seemed harsh. However, Sierra's curling free kick was the precursor to a goal that was desperately needed to enliven a dreary match. Zamorano, once again demonstrating his outstanding jumping ability, rose above Pfeffer to head down towards goal, where Michael Konsel, the Austria goalkeeper, did well to push the ball away to his right. However, Salas, running in, had the good fortune to knock the ball in off the top of his leg.

Though it could hardly be described as a claim to excellence, given that Austria had looked a poor side, Chile had held the upper hand throughout, until Vastic struck. There can be no complaining, though, about the quality of the goal, although Nelson Acosta, the Chile coach, may have harsh words for Parraguez and Fuentes, both of whom were slow off the mark when Vastic took possession just outside the penalty area.

Neither managed to get in a tackle as Vastic shaped up to shoot. It was a strike of which Salas would no doubt have been proud, a thundering effort from 20 yards that beat Tapia, the Chile goalkeeper, high in his left-hand corner.

By that time, however, Chile should have had goals in hand. Zamorano, especially, had been unfortunate. As early as the seventh minute, an error by Haas allowed Salas to break free down the right. The cross, though, was just fractionally too high for Zamorano. Estay then played a short free kick to Margas, whose shot from 20 yards flashed across the goal and wide. Shortly afterwards, Zamorano took up a good position in the area, but Rojas's cross to the far post was too high, just out of Zamorano's reach.

It was not until the second half was eight minutes old that Konsel was forced into his first difficult save. Villarroel, moving on to a pass from Acuña, sent in a rising shot that the goalkeeper did well to push wide of his left post.

Again, Zamorano had a chance when Sierra delivered a free kick into the penalty area, where the Internazionale man was unchallenged. He seemed to take his eye off the ball and failed to make contact.

So still Chile are seeking not only their first victory in the World Cup finals since 1962, but their first in the finals away from home soil since 1950. It will need to come against Cameroon in their last group game next Tuesday, otherwise they face being eliminated.

With the match goalless at half-time, the applause came from Austria supporters, who seemed to think that a share of the points would do. However, with Italy to play in their last match, it seemed a curious reaction.

Most of the Chile squad play within their country and only Salas and Zamorano are with European clubs, both in Italy. Zamorano is with Internazionale, Salas with Lazio. Acosta is understood to be pleased that others are attracting interest among English clubs, though it is difficult to imagine any pursuing their interest on the strength of this performance. Margas, an accomplished defender, may be an exception.

CHILE (3-4-1-2): N Tapia (Universidad Catolica) — P Reyes (Colo Colo), R Fuentes (Universidad de Chile), J Margas (Universidad Catolica) — M Villarroel (Wanderers, sub: C Castañeda, Universidad de Chile, 68min), C Acuña (Universidad de Chile), N Parraguez (Universidad Catolica), F Rojas (Colo Colo) — F Estay (Toluca; sub: J Sierra, Colo Colo, 58) — I Zamorano (Internazionale), M Salas (Lazio).

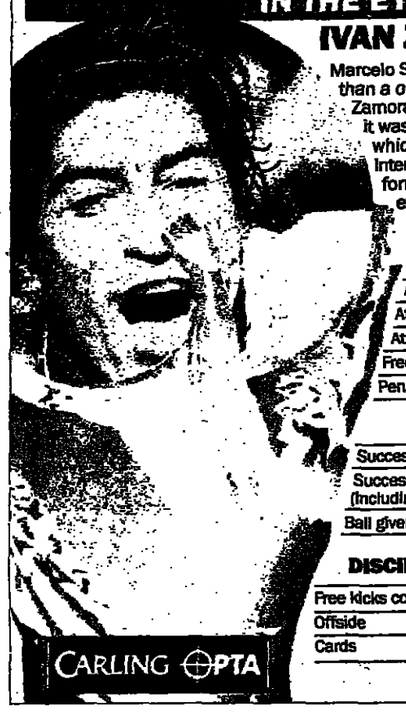
AUSTRIA (3-5-2): M Konsel (AS Roma) — W Feiersinger (Borussia Dortmund), A Pfeffer (Austria Vienna), P Schottel (Rapid Vienna) — H Cerny (1860 Munich; sub: M Schopp, Sturm Graz, 46), D Kühbauer (Real Sociedad; sub: A Herzog, Werder Bremen, 46), R Mahlich (Sturm Graz), H Pfeffenberger (Werder Bremen), A Weil (Rapid Vienna) — M Haas (Sturm Graz; sub: J Vastic, Sturm Graz, 74) — A Polster (Cologne).

Referee: G Ghandour (Egypt).

IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD

IVAN ZAMORANO (Chile)

Marcelo Salas may get the goals but Chile are more than a one-man team. Captain and striking partner Zamorano, 31, is the perfect foil for *El Matador* and it was his header – one of four goal attempts – which brought about Salas' goal yesterday. The Internazionale forward has brought his rampaging form from the Uefa Cup triumph as these exclusive Carling Opta statistics show.



PENETRATION

Goals	0
Attempts on target	2
Attempts off target	2
Attempts blocked	0
Free kicks won	1
Penalties won	0

EFFICIENCY

Successful passes in opposition half	15
Successful passes into opposition penalty area (including crosses and corners)	0
Ball given away in own half	1

DISCIPLINE

Free kicks conceded	0
Offside	6
Cards	1 (Yellow)

SECURITY

Tackles won	2
Tackles lost	1

Minutes on pitch

CARLING OPTA



Salas is hoisted aloft by Zamorano after Chile's goal. Photograph: Pawel Kopczynski

THE WORLD CUP ON TELEVISION

Football endures lesson in laughing at itself

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

HUMOUR, be it subtle, irreverent or anarchic, has its place in sport. Sport is usually a professional, serious business, fed by the multimillion-pound demands of television, but it needs the occasional slap in the face to bring it down to earth. It needs to glance in the mirror, laugh at itself and then get on with the job of trophy-winning and record-setting.

Football is no different — take a look, anytime, anywhere, at Glenn Hoddle, the England coach. Rarely does he let slip that mask of isolation, a man alone among men but a man with a mission. He is ruthless when he needs to be, compassionate also, but little or nothing will deter him from his chosen path. There is no need to be seen to be enjoying it.

Fantasy World Cup Live, ITV's late-night show for lads and lasses, picks the bones from the tournament from which it takes its name, lays bare its absurdities and anomalies and pokes fun at anybody and anything. It is a ravenous vulture, devised, written and presented by Frank Skinner and David Baddiel, yet it pecks at the carcass before the creature has even expired.

It can also be ruthless, sometimes callous. In its latest offering, it again lampooned oh-so-earnest David Mellor, head of the Football Task Force. After a slobbering *Spitting Image*-style puppet of Mellor had prompted convulsions in the cheap seats, Skinner could not resist another dig. "He apparently said that the hooligans were a load of idiots who were only pretending they're interested in football. Ring any bells, David?"



Baddiel: we are amused

Baddiel provided only the merest hint of thoughtful comment on the scenes of devastation from Marseilles. "Shame about the riots," he said. Thundering rhetoric, condemning the pseudo-supporters responsible, would have been out of place on the programme, but he might as well not have bothered. He should have said something substantial or nothing.

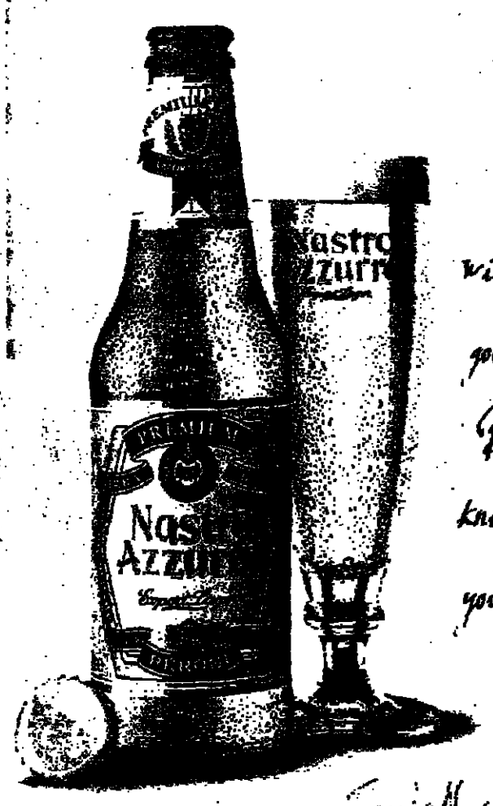
Therein lies the danger. *Fantasy World Cup* serves a purpose, ridiculing the pompous personalities of the mainstream channels and titillating the viewer with near-the-knuckle gags. It is up-to-date, with much of the script compiled only hours before it goes on air, and is cleverly and cosily presented.

It exists, though, on the edge of the yob culture that has so scarred the consciousness of the country this week. Baddiel constantly swigs from a bottle, the studio audience often chants inanely and some of the jokes shatter the boundaries of good taste. Watch it sober, after a hard day in the office, and you may fall asleep; come in from the pub and it will have you gasping for more — sketches *and* ale.

Half an hour, every other evening, is about right. It does not assault the senses, offends only marginally and fills an appropriate slot in the scheduling. And, anyway, football is a funny old game, isn't it?

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Peroni's Nastro Azzurro. Italy's Numero Uno Beer.

South Africa's progress halted by internal strife

Inigo Gilmore on a struggle to restore an ailing team's harmony

After beginning the World Cup confident that they were capable of taking on the very best and beating them, South Africa's dreams of glory are fast evaporating amid bitter recriminations and injury worries in the wake of the comprehensive defeat against France.

If the team known as "Bafana Bafana" fail in their group C match against Denmark here in Toulouse today, then the players can begin packing their bags for a long trip home, where they can be sure that a legion of disgruntled fans will await them.

The opening 3-0 defeat highlighted the shortcomings of the team and the difficulties of introducing a new system under a new coach at short notice. It was arguably the most inept performance by any side so far in this tournament. The defence looked shaky, the midfield out of its depth and the front men redundant.

Inevitably, much of the blame has been heaped on Philippe Troussier, the French coach introduced by the South African Football Association in March, who will take charge of Sheffield Wednesday for the next Premiership season. He has changed the style and shape of the side by opting for tough players with stamina, seeking to graft European techniques on to the team. However, in the process, the African champions of 1996 seem to have lost their rhythm.

There are several new faces in the team, yet they do not appear to have blended well with the more seasoned players. There have been reports of a players' revolt within the camp and calls for the side to revert to the tried and trusted system that served them well in the past.

Some of the players have not taken to Troussier, who has been accused of physical intimidation and bullying; the bitterness has lingered. "The players do not like the rigidity of Troussier's system," one insider said. "They think it is too defensive."



Troussier: criticised

In response, Troussier has announced that he is considering a new approach. He said earlier this week that, because the game against France was perhaps too defensive, he may increase the percentage of African flair against European graft, a move that would be welcomed by players and supporters.

If this were not enough to worry about, Troussier's options for the Denmark match have been restricted by injury problems afflicting his two first-choice strikers. While Benni McCarthy, the young Ajax forward, has made a rapid recovery from an ankle injury that required him to be taken off on a stretcher during the match against France, he remains a doubtful starter. By last night, no final decision had been made regarding Phil Masinga, the former Leeds United forward, who now plays in Italy.

By contrast, Denmark are brimming with confidence after their 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia and will be looking to lay the foundations for victory early on. Michael Laudrup, of Ajax, his brother, Brian, soon to join Chelsea, and Peter Schmeichel, the Manchester United goalkeeper, will be formidable opponents for South Africa.

WORLD CUP DIARY

Seaman banking on net gains

SOMEONE tell this man to calm down. David Seaman, who has not conceded a goal in a competitive international for 20 months, suddenly decided yesterday that anybody could rain on England's parade. He said: "It wouldn't bother me if I conceded nine in a game, as long as we got ten. Winning is all that counts; that's what it's all about." Er, and Glenn Hoddle thinks anything goes as long as we have fun.

☐ Clean football might be good for players and fans, but the bookies are hopping mad. Sporting Index announced yesterday that it stood to lose a six-figure sum because referees have been mean with yellow and red cards. The company blames the referees' failure to implement tough rules on tackling from behind.

☐ France's own Postman Pat, who will referee the England game with Romania, has been receiving sackfuls of mail thanks to his colleagues back at the Bonnevienne Post Office in Marseilles, where he usually works. They placed an advert in local papers encouraging people to send Marc Batta a few words of encouragement. Batta says he had been overwhelmed.

☐ A careless remark by Eric Deflandre, the Belgium and FC Bruges defender, caused embarrassment for his family and fiancée back home. When Deflandre was asked by a reporter what he had in his luggage, he replied: "Football boots and an inflatable doll. It's tough to spend a month without a woman." Deflandre rued: "It was meant as a joke.

WORLD CUP 98

Vital goal brings more discussion about central role

CRAIG BURLEY



There was no mistaking the crowd's reaction to the 1-1 draw with Norway. I could hear them when I was back in the dressing-room and they were still singing when I went into the press area afterwards. I gather the announcer eventually had to ask the supporters to leave the ground for "technical reasons". I reckon the staff were wondering if they would ever get home.

All that cheering must have sounded a bit strange to anybody who looked at the result by itself, but there was a contrast in the reactions of the two teams, despite the fact that we had drawn the match. The Norwegians were deflated and that is not surprising when you look at their last game in the group. If the 3-0 win over Morocco is any indication, Brazil are coming into their very best form.

Everyone in the Scotland camp is in high spirits now. There are a number of reasons for that. The performance of Tuesday was probably the best we have produced since Euro 96. We are enjoying a feeling of relief as well. Norway were 1-0 up and, if they had gone on to win, it would have left us as low as a snake's belly. We would have been out of the World Cup, with another week here and a meaningless game ahead of us.

Most of all, though, the players are happy because we know that we stand an excellent chance of qualifying for the next round if we beat Morocco on Tuesday. Our hopes of getting into that situation were slim when Havard Flo scored at the start of the second half. For a few minutes, we lost our shape and were all over place.

If Norway had got another goal at that stage, it would have been all over. It is a blow to go behind, but it hurts even more when it happens in a game where you have been completely in command. There was almost a feeling of panic before we started to gee each other up again. I got the equaliser soon after I had been switched from the right and put into the central midfield role that I play for Celtic. Craig Brown told me to play in front of Paul Lambert and John Collins so that I could support the attack.

I am glad that I had so little time to think when the chance came to me. Grodas, their goalkeeper, was off his line, so I lifted it over him. For a moment, I thought the ball was going high, but then it dropped in. It was an amazing feeling, particularly because the goal was so significant.

The goal has created more discussion about my position in the Scotland side. I am happy to be picked for any job, but I prefer being in the middle. I have always thought that I could get goals in that role, although I was never prolific even when I was playing in youth teams. With Celtic, I have been given the opportunity to go into the attack, an opportunity I rarely had when I was with Chelsea.

As a midfield player, you are always looking for ways of finding an opening. People might think that you just make 50 runs into the penalty area and get a goal from one of them, but it is not like that. If you are so predictable, the defence will be saying: "Here he comes again." Then, you will always be marked. A bit more variety is needed.

Perhaps you can go wide or just drift out of the action slightly until the other team has forgotten about you. In total, I have probably spent only the equivalent of two games in central midfield for Scotland and I have now scored twice. I hope the ratio shows that I can be effective there.

As a team, Scotland proved themselves on Tuesday. Norway were a bit cocky beforehand and thought that we were not good enough. It was a shock to them when they found us passing the ball round them. They never really got to grips with that. After Brazil, I believe Scotland are the best side in the group. Now we must prove that against Morocco.

Injury ends Cup for Calderwood

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA

THE 1998 World Cup is over for Colin Calderwood. He is likely to have an operation in London today, after breaking one bone and displacing another in the back of his hand during Scotland's 1-1 draw with Norway on Tuesday. It will be at least five weeks before the Tottenham Hotspur central defender is fit again.

Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, refused to rule out the possibility of Calderwood returning to action next week. "If his club and the surgeon cleared him to play, then I would be willing to pick him," Brown said. In reality, there is virtually no possibility of Calderwood being permitted, by Tottenham or a specialist, to play.

"It is a setback," Brown said. "He has been a fixture in the side for the past three years. We are going to be two players short now that Darren Jackson is suspended for the next match, with Morocco." Calderwood's position will be filled by David Weir, the Heart of Midlothian central defender, who came on as a substitute on Tuesday.

The rules do not permit Scotland to bring in a player to replace Calderwood. Even so, Brown remains content. Scotland were generally seen as the better team against Norway and are likely to qualify for the second round if they can defeat Morocco.

"Brazil are ranked first in the world and Norway are also very highly rated," Brown said, "yet we are disappointed with our results against them. That is the measure of the progress we have made." None the less, the manager is still conscious of the limitations that explain their failure to win either of the games.

"We definitely lack a killer touch," he said. "We should have been 2-0 up against Norway. That would have turned it into a gala day. Instead, we lost a goal and were battling again."



A woman's world, but football watching can induce troubling side effects — such as incipient acne and an apathy to all things cultural

Girlie power discovers its antidote

Montpellier

AS solid proof that watching football increases testosterone levels, I found myself daydreaming yesterday en route to Montpellier about how a carburettor works. It was a dire moment, as you can imagine. You stare innocently out of a window, and start speculating about mechanics.

In fact, I had got as far as musing on camshafts and tappets before I finally brought myself to order. Good grief. Four or five matches in as many days and I'd become a proto-grease monkey.

What the future weeks hold in terms of trans-sexuality obviously don't bear thinking about. Will I start refusing to ask directions when lost? Leave damp towels on the floor? Sniff my armpits? Will I — last and worst of all — knowingly quote scores from obscure World Cup matches played before I was even born?

Most of the time, covering sport, I forget there's a gender issue. This is quite hard for people to believe, but it's true. Obviously I notice that the ladies' toilets at the Stade de France are deserted and that the press pack includes a gents' razor but no sewing kit.

'Mostly I forget there's a gender issue'

But I don't take it personally, except when under extreme stress, or when referred to by strangers as a "girlie". The men seem not to take much notice, either, thank goodness — except for those rare Old Testament types who quote Ezekiel on the dangers of women in press boxes in between bouts of baying at the moon.

So it's quite simple. I donate the shaver to someone else, make all my personal phone calls from the Javs (where it's quiet), and try not to offer to sew other journalists' buttons on. This way, we rub along fine.

Actually, the most worrying aspect of the football watching is not the incipient acne or abnormal hair growth, but a new-found apathy to things cultural, which I hope is not particularly male, and which I certainly hope does not persist. Take for example an event being staged in Montpellier during the World Cup: a two-orchestra extravaganza called *Football en musique*, inspired by the "classic" France-Brazil game in 1986. Sounds good? Not to me. This piece has been specially composed and will be played live at the Opera Berlioz, to footage of the match, and I find myself sniggering at the sheer silly pointlessness of it.

TGV



Truss's Grand Voyage

Ordinarily, I would not respond in such an oafish way. I'd buy a ticket. But in my current footie frame of mind, all I can do is scoff at *Football en musique*. I knock back another Kronenberg, belch, and ask, "*Mais pourquoi, exactement?*" When this piece has become a classic World Cup cultural landmark, like the Three Tenors concert, I shall feel very, very ashamed of myself.

But I have noticed this hormonal problem before, when a kind friend took me to Henry V at the Globe Theatre last year and the tameness of the event simply maddened me. It was so girlie. Shakespeare's history plays used to be my favourite form of muscular entertainment, I ought to add. When Alan Howard limped and swaggered across the RSC's various stages in black leather and chains in the 1980s, I was always there in row AA to watch him.

But when the Tournoi is on, and you hear that the director of *Henry V* has deliberately beefed up the anti-French polemic, and moreover has declared he wants the audience to behave "as if it were at a football match", a footie-person finds she has unrealistic expectations, and the disappointment at the audience's odd embarrassed cough and silent programme-flicking is just too crushing.

'Usually I would not respond in such an oafish way'

You get impatient, that's what it is. You want to feel involved, especially when there's such excellent rhetoric flying around. Chap standing there spouting about St Crispin's Day, you want to yell "Inger Lund". "Why don't they give us flags to wave?" I asked my horrified chum. "He's exhorting us, but he doesn't mean it. We're just sitting here like lemons."

Clearly it's a short step from such a position to the famous exasperated cry of the savage on first seeing Othello. "Open your eyes, you black fool!" But I'm only telling it how it feels. It's not something I'm at all proud of.

Anyway, for all these reasons I doubt I'll pop along to *Football en musique*. And looking back, I took considerable pleasure in scoffing at the well-meant cultural events offered in Lens and Saint-Denis, too.

These included (yawn) "one hour of non-stop playlets, with no half-time or stops, with their art of being on the wrong foot and buffoonery" which promised "fun guaranteed for a moment", plus (sigh) a visit from a giant post-box (three metres high!) topped by a football filled with helium. Well, if anybody went to either, then I've got a big grey beard.

As the plane touched down in Montpellier, incidentally, I asked a chap about carburettors. He said cars didn't have them any more. They had fuel injection systems. Oh well. It was only a very little interest in cars, and it was over very quickly. When I stop being interested in *EastEnders* and *The Archers* is when I really have to worry.

LYNNE TRUSS

COMPETITION THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

Van Hooijdonk lying in wait

PIERRE VAN HOOIJDONK, the Nottingham Forest striker who was so prolific as his team won the Nationwide League first division championship last season, will probably have to settle for a place on the substitutes' bench again when Holland take on South Korea in group E in Marseilles on Saturday.

Guus Hiddink, the Holland coach, would not be drawn on his starting line-up yesterday, but appeared to rule out a combination of Van Hooijdonk and Dennis Bergkamp, the Arsenal forward, who has recovered from a hamstring strain. The towering Van Hooijdonk scored more than 30 goals for Forest last season and his fine form suggested he could be a starting option. However, Hiddink said: "Pierre is a certain sort of player. He's not necessarily the neatest.

"I don't mean to be negative when I say it, but he's really our 'pinch hitter', a type of player who could come on as a supersub to grab an important goal."

It seems likely that Hiddink will push up Ronald de Boer from the start and bring on Van Hooijdonk later. Bergkamp and his coach agree that he can manage at least an hour of action, but neither is letting on who will partner him from the start. With Patrick Kluivert suspended for two matches and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink looking out of sorts, a feeling is growing that De Boer will fill the gap.

De Boer generally sits behind the Dutch front two, but has the flexibility to fill other areas. "Ronald can play in three, four, five different positions," Hiddink said. "I imagine that a few years down the line, he would make a great *libero*."

De Boer took no part in training yesterday and sat with ice-packs on both knees, but the Dutch coach said that this was merely a precautionary measure and he would definitely play on Saturday. Hiddink is confident of victory, but respects the "discipline and hard-working nature" of South Korea. He also implied that Van Hooijdonk's height could be useful later in the game. "They are well-organised in the centre and in the centre of defence, but we should create some room on the flanks," he said. "We could also see that towards the end against Mexico they were vulnerable to crosses."

The Nigeria squad has been promised match bonuses of £10,000 to each player if they beat Bulgaria in their second group D game tomorrow. Nigeria, leading the group after a surprise victory over Spain, would virtually be guaranteed a spot in the last 16 if they overcome Bulgaria. Players had squabbled with officials of their national association prior to the tournament over the issue of match payments.

Football untied by state of apathy

America is underwhelmed by World Cup fever, **Tunku Varadarajan** reports

Main Street America did not empty on Monday afternoon when the United States football team took on — if that is the right phrasal verb — the mighty German machine.

Broadway, one of New York's most celebrated thoroughfares, was not desolate, no masses huddled over television sets indoors. A loud, collective gasp did not emit from a stricken nation when Tom Dooley, the captain, failed to get in the way of an Andreas Möller header, giving Germany a goal as soft as blancmange.

Frankly, no one here cared. If the rest of the world is Planet Football, most of America is Planet Whatball? At Langan's, an Irish bar next to *The Times* bureau in New York, only a small knot of men watched the game.

Eavesdropping on their accents, I detected quickly that they were Brits abroad on holiday and Irish expats. There was not a Yank in sight.

America is in the grip of an infuriating counter-phenomenon. What the world watches, America dismisses airily. *The Wall Street Journal* has called it "the greats sports disconnect". In most of the world's 200 or so nations, the newspaper muses, "soccer prompts riots and silly songs and weekly lotto games. In the US, it prompts viewers to fumble for the clicker when they happen upon a game."

Often, however, to the chagrin of football supporters in search of a set with a World Cup game on, Americans will in fact refuse to change channels. At my local gymnasium the other day, I failed to pursuade the manager to switch the television over the treadmill from Oprah Winfrey to Cameroon versus Austria. "I'm sorry, but I'm going to have to say no," he said. "That would make me very unpopular. People here like Oprah; they don't know anything about soccer."

I pointed out that I was the only one there, to which he riposted mulishly: "But someone else could come at any time." And he then went away, the remote control placed firmly in his football-hating pocket.

British, German and Japanese friends have reported their failure to convince barmen to turn the channel over to footie. A shrug of the shoulder, a bewildered look — sometimes outright disbelief — is what they have got in response to the question "Can we have the World Cup on?"

One acquaintance, in a bar in Texas, was told that they would put "that weird game" on for him if he undertook to drink $500 worth of beer, "the equivalent of what you'd drive away if we had your stuff on here".

The World Cup has divided America, of course. Never have the margins been more clearly marked from the mainstream. To say that the country is devoid of football — that *no one* watches Ronaldo and Shearer and Zidane — is not strictly true. Thousands do, all recent immigrants from the world of football.

They speak Spanish mainly, but also Serbo-Croat. And Russian, Korean, Yoruba, Arabic, Creole, Farsi, Romanian. They speak English too, after a fashion, with accents from the Old World.

These people have nothing in common with "real" Americans, except their quest for the American Dream. Their love for football sets them apart. So far apart, in fact, that they inhabit a different planet.

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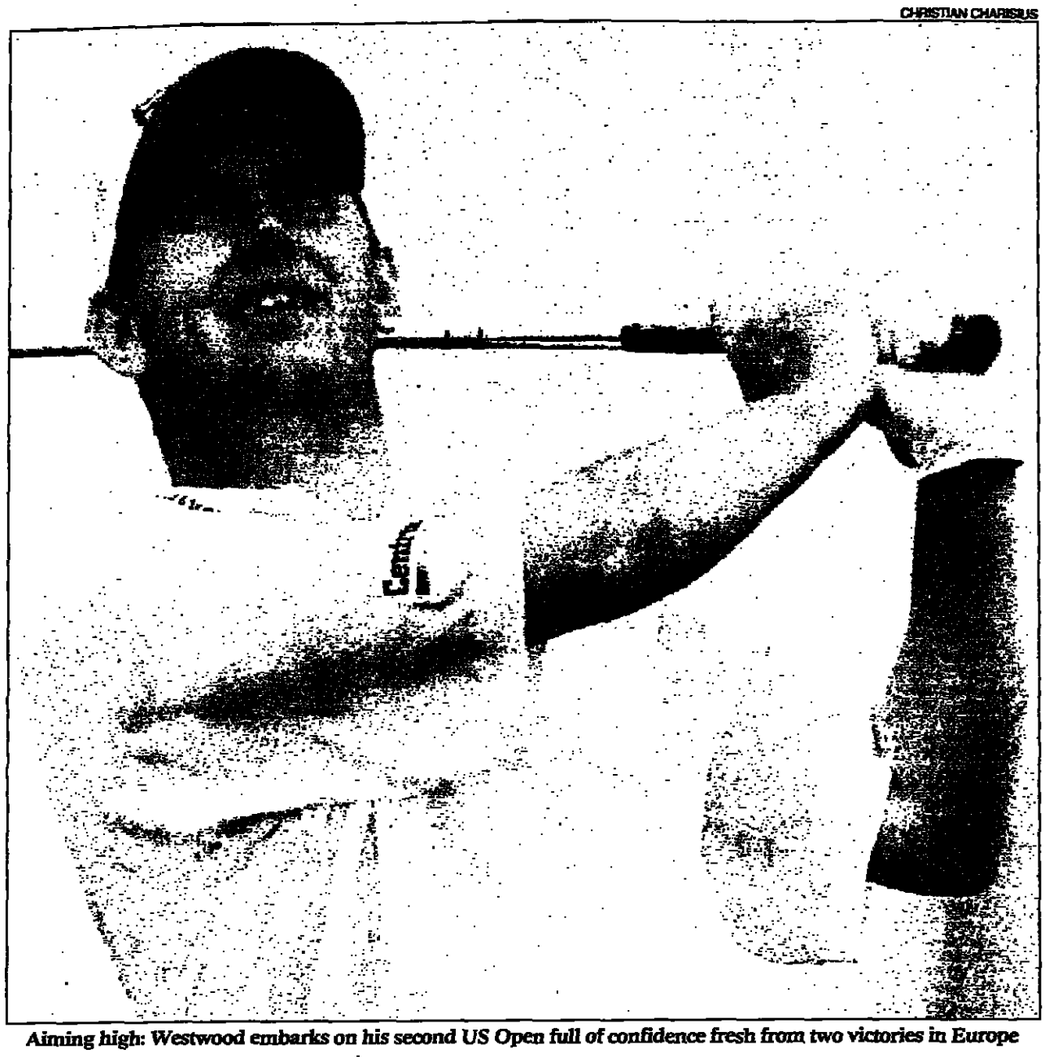
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John Hopkins on a Briton with his sights on a first major

Westwood takes on the world

CHRISTIAN CHARISIUS



Aiming high: Westwood embarks on his second US Open full of confidence fresh from two victories in Europe

Lee Westwood approached the 18th hole at the Lake course at the Olympic Club in San Francisco soon after 2pm on Tuesday. He hit three successive shots into a greenside bunker and then spent ten minutes exploding from various positions in the bunker on to the sloping green and then on to the putting surface from the thick and wiry grass that surrounded it.

Finally, he had practised enough and, as he began the long walk up from the green to the safety of the clubhouse, he signed the caps, balls, flags and pieces of paper that were thrust at him. "Eastwood, Eastwood, sign this, please," a little boy cried out. In the mêlée created by Westwood and his caddie, Peter Cowan, his coach from Lindrick Golf Club and several hangers-on, the little boy's cries were carried away on the wind. Eastwood, indeed. Had the little tyke no sense of geography?

Westwood is Europe's best golfer at the moment. He has beaten Colin Montgomerie to that first strokeplay victory in the United States and won his past two events on his home continent with stunning scoring. After exactly 50 competitive rounds in the United States and Europe this year, Westwood is 95 under par. A third and two seconds in his six US Opens make Montgomerie one of the favourites for this year's tournament, which tees off today. Westwood, 25 and competing in only his second US Open, is a long shot — but by no means a very long one.

Westwood's is the name on everyone's lips at present. In *Golf Week* magazine, there is a full-page advertisement by Ping, the manufacturer of the clubs that Westwood uses. "Winning the world over," it is headlined, continuing: "At 25, Lee Westwood is leaving an impression everywhere he goes. In a lot of cases, it's on the tournament trophy. His latest triumph, his sixth worldwide in just over a year, came at the Deutsche Bank-SAP Open in Germany."

Here's the joke. Westwood is winning so fast that even his sponsors cannot keep up. A week later came his seventh, when he won at Hanbury Manor. Ping seemed to have overlooked that one.

Now it is 9am on Tuesday. The man who has won £1.2 million in prize-money alone since November (and perhaps as much again in other earnings) has postponed his first practice round for the US Open to talk to journalists. Almost the first question goes as follows: "I understand you have great expectations for the week. What is that based on?"

"Based on playing well at the moment," Westwood replied evenly. "I don't think there is any point in coming to a tournament unless you think you can win it. And I think the way I am playing, if I play well this week, then I can win it."

This was spoken as Westwood speaks — in a flat voice with confidence, but without boastfulness and accompanied by a firm stare at his inquisitor. Whatever else Westwood may lack, quiet assurance is not one of them. When he came off the course, he was asked how he intended to deal with the rough, described by Tom Watson as being some of the hardest he has ever known for a US Open. "Stay out of it," Westwood said.

Later, Watson commented favourably on Westwood. "He is a wonderful player, an excellent player," Watson said. "I played with him at the PGA at Winged Foot last year and at the Masters this year and I like his attitude on the golf course."

Watson may never before have been paired in a major championship with two men young enough to be his children. In a trio that unites three Ws, Watson, 48, will partner Tiger Woods, 22, and Westwood for the first two rounds. "I have played in major championships with people who could be my father, but not vice versa," Watson said.

Westwood should learn from Watson, who, after victory in his last tournament and a second place in another in February, is far from an outsider on a course where he finished second in the US Open in 1987. Westwood will have little difficulty in outdriving Watson, but whether he can manage to deal as well with the tangly rough that is so much a feature of this course remains to be seen.

Watson, playing his 27th US Open, had some advice for the Briton: "Use your head. There is no sense in complaining about the rough. They are not going to change it. It is like hitting into a water hazard. You take a one-stroke penalty."

Westwood's reaction to the famed Lake course after his first practice round was one of disappointment. He described the course as dull and uttered the old saw that a US Open course was meant to be a test of driving whereas he had only used his driver on three holes. Then, in a burst of youthful exuberance mixed with chauvinism, he said: "Worksop would be difficult if they grew the rough like this."

These were the words of a young man competing in only his second US Open. They were brave and disrespectful and one hoped they would not come back to haunt him.

US OPEN TEE TIMES FOR FIRST ROUND

All times BST
United States unless stated
** denotes amateur*

15.00: S Pate, O Browne, G Waite (NZ)
15.10: W Wood, C Perry, D Hart
15.20: J Gore, R Todd, P Parker
15.30: M Lonardi (Arg), J Johnston, P Lee
15.40: S Hoch, M Brooks, A Magee
15.50: G Boros, G Day, C Rose
16.00: S Randolph, C Dimarco, J Green
16.10: C Montgomerie (GB), D Duval, J Furyk
16.20: C Strange, H Irwin, P Stewart
16.30: *S Appleby (Aus)*, J Sluman, P Stankowski
16.40: F Couples, F Nobilo (NZ), J Daly
16.50: M Calcavecchia, C Rocca (It), P Azinger
17.00: *T Watson, L Westwood (GB)*, T Woods
17.10: F Lickliter, P Harrington (Ire), H Twitty
17.20: M O'Meara, S Verplank, J Cook
17.30: K Triplett, I Woosnam (GB), P Moss
17.40: L Janzen, M Ozaki (Japan), D Love III
17.50: G Hallberg, * R Palmer, C Beck
18.00: C Tidland, T Ch, T Spuds
18.10: F Zoeller, R Goosen (SA), S Cink
18.20: L Roberts, B Fabel, J Parnevik (Swe)
18.30: *P Tataurangi (NZ)*, P Jordan, K Wentworth
18.40: M Small, B Zabriski, J Thorsen
18.50: G Larson, C Kaufman, R Deruntz
19.00: R Walcher, W Weston, B Wetterich
19.10: *R Gehr, R Ames, R Rangel*
19.20: B Chamblee, O Uresti, D Mast
19.30: M Carnevale, J Durant, D Martin
19.40: J Allen, G Clough, D Kirkpatrick
19.50: D Gilchrist, A Morin, J McMillian
20.00: *J Leonard, * M Kuchar, E Els (SA)*
20.10: S Simpson, D Pooley, N Price (Zimb)
20.20: P Mickelson, D Clarke (Ire), J Maggert
20.30: T Lehman, B Langer (Ger), S Jones
20.40: T Tolles, M Reid, T Dodds (Nam)
20.50: J Huston, V Singh (Fiji), S McCarron
21.00: G Marsh (Aus), B Crenshaw, J Nicklaus
21.10: J Sindelar, T Bjorn (Den), * J Knibel
21.20: C Pavin, N Faldo (GB), T Kite
21.30: W Andrade, I Garrido (Sp), B Faxon
21.40: K Sutherland, * P Simson, L Porter
21.50: J Haas, E Romero (Arg), S Stricker
22.00: S Elkington (Aus), J M Olazabal (Sp), R Tway
22.10: T Herron, P-U Johansson (Swe), D Ogrin
22.20: G March, M Burkejr, G Fiegar
22.30: M Brisky, * V Taylor, J Estes
22.40: *D A Weibring, R Karlsson (Swe)*, B Gelberger
22.50: A Stills, S Bertsch, T Straub
23.00: J Johnson, M Baird, C Charnock
23.10: E Fryatt (GB), * D Eger, C Martin
23.20: J Acosta*jr, T Anderson, T Sutter*
23.30: M Wilson, G Willis, K Peyrefemy

RECORDS IN THE US OPEN: Most wins: 4: W Anderson (1901-03-04-05); R Jones (1923-26-29-30); B Hogan (1948-50-51-53); J Nicklaus (1962-67-72-80) Lowest total: 272: Nicklaus (Baltusrol) 1980; L Janzen (Baltusrol) 1993. Lowest round: 63: J Miller (Oakmont) 1973; T Weiskopf (Baltusrol) 1980; Nicklaus (Baltusrol) 1980.

Lake course holds sting in tail for US Open field

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN SAN FRANCISCO

THE Lake course at the Olympic Club, where the 98th US Open starts this morning, is one venue where the improbable becomes reality. It is where Jack Fleck, the professional from the Duck Creek and Credit Island municipal golf club, defeated Ben Hogan in a play-off for the 1955 Open and it was here that Arnold Palmer led by seven strokes with nine holes to play in the 1966 Open and lost to Billy Casper.

The Olympic is the only course in championship golf that has a par five that is more than twice as long as one of its par fours. On the entire course, there is only one fairway bunker and its 7th and 18th holes are, respectively, the shortest par four and the shortest finishing holes in championship golf. At 6,797 yards, it is, on the face of it, one of the shortest venues for this distinguished championship. Oh yes — and Nick Price has said it is easier to read Chinese than some of Olympic's greens.

For sheer unusualness, the last three holes at Olympic take some beating. The 16th is a monster, 609 yards curving gently from right to left. Tiger Woods and John Daly may be able to go for the green, as long as they have shaped their drives from right to left so as not to run out of fairway, but few others will.

The 17th is a hole the members play as a par five, but has been shortened to 468 yards for this event. It is uphill, the fairway curls round to the left and tilts down to the right. In the last Open here, it was necessary to land the ball in the rough on the left of the fairway to stop it rolling across the fairway and into the rough on the right.

In this format, the 17th represents one of the few par fours that require two full shots by the pros, often two woods, to reach the green and distance is only the half of it. The green is set at an angle and takes some finding. Billy Andrade, Andrew Magee, Lee Janzen and John Huston took 12 strokes — an average of three strokes each — to reach this green in practice.

After this, the 18th is a tease, only 347 yards long, but the fairway slopes to both the left and the right, the green tilts from back to front and, when the flag is at the front, in its most difficult position, a par is a creditable score.

Though Ernie Els's injured back is likely to prevent him mounting a serious attempt to win his second US Open in succession and his third in all, the other usual suspects present themselves. Justin Leonard, the Open champion, will not find himself disadvantaged by any lack of length. David Duval is considered by some to be on the verge of greatness. Tom Lehman has done as the great Bobby Jones did in 1928, 1929 and 1930 and led the past three Opens after 54 holes. The difference is Jones won in 1929 and 1930 and Lehman has yet to do so.

Then there is Colin Montgomerie, who presents a more composed presence than he did last year. However, in 1997, he hustled over from winning at Slaley Hall in Northumberland one Sunday to finish second to Els in Washington DC the next.

Perhaps the most unlikely scenario of all would be for Casey Martin, who birdied the first extra hole of a play-off to get into the US Open and is the first man to compete in this event while using a cart, could drive his way to victory on Sunday afternoon. Just a minute, though: perhaps that is not so improbable. This is Olympic, after all.

Answers from page 45

HABUTAI
(c) A fine soft Japanese silk. The Japanese name.

JUBJUB
(b) An imaginary bird of a ferocious, desperate and occasionally charitable nature, noted for its excellence when cooked. Invented by "Lewis Carroll" (C. L. Dodgson). Perhaps a portmanteau word or formed after such representations of bird-cry as *jug-jug*.

NOODLE
(c) To search for opals (in opal dumps or "mullocks"). Australian, origin unknown.

MARY JANE
(a) A type of low-heeled shoe with a strap round the ankle or across the instep, worn chiefly by young girls. The proprietary name from a transferred use of the female Christian names.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 e5! forces the win of a piece, e.g. 1 ... Qxe5 2 Bxf6+ Qxf6 3 Qxb7 or 1 ... Bxf3 2 exf6+ Qxf6 3 Bxf6+ Kxf6 4 gxf3.

TELEVISION CHOICE

The doctor calls again

Braunwell
ITV, 8.00pm

Although this is the second feature-length helping of Lucy Gannon's medical drama this week the challenge of filling two more hours of screentime has meant no thinning of the material. If anything, tonight's episode is more rich in plot than the one shown on Monday. For one thing Dr Eleanor (Jemma Redgrave) is pregnant and facing the social stigma of bearing a child out of wedlock. For another, the impeccably upright Dr Marsham (Kevin McMonagle) is implicated in a scandal involving a prostitute. And if this was not enough, Eleanor's pricky relationship with the hospital administrator (Jenny Agutter) comes to a head and future funding is thrown in doubt. Colin Welland joins the cast as a God-fearing philanthropist, as does Louise Germaine.

Real Gardens
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Conspicuous by their absence from television gardening programmes, and for that matter the Chelsea Flower Show, are our ethnic minorities. Nobody is suggesting racial discrimination but it does seem curious that gardening in Britain is an activity is apparently confined to the white population. All credit to *Real Gardens*, therefore, for discovering Mervyn Pottinger and Andrea Lake, two enthusiastic black gardeners from north London. Their cheery presence has enlivened the series and it is good to know that the clematis they planted with such care a couple of weeks ago is starting to flourish. Tonight's programme also features gardens in Somerset and Hertfordshire which have become familiar over the past weeks, and Carol Klein and Monty Don are on hand to dispense their expert advice.

Children's Health: Let Them Eat Crisps
BBC2, 9.10pm

We are all getting fatter and it starts young. One in 20 of our children is seriously overweight and this can spell trouble later on. The reasons, as revealed in this documentary based on a study by Exeter University, are far from surprising. But they say much about so-called lifestyles in the final years of the 20th century. In a sentence it is down to too many chips, sweets and fizzy drinks and not enough exercise. Parents seem unwilling to fight their kids over diet, preferring to give them stodge for a quiet life. Fresh fruit and vegetables, which the experts tell us are essential for a healthy life, are conspicuous by their absence. As for lack of exercise, nearly half of children are driven to school, compared with fewer than one in ten 20 years ago, there are fewer PE lessons and spare time is often spent watching TV or playing video games.



Louise Germaine and Kevin McMonagle (ITV, 8.00pm)

Cradle to Grave: The Citadel
Channel 4, 11.00pm

Richard Horton may be a doctor but he has a low opinion of those who run his profession. The British Medical Association and the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, he says, have underminded and betrayed the whole idea of the National Health Service. They protect doctors, not patients, prefer secrecy to openess, have nurtured an old boy network and remain arrogant and largely accountable. Dr Horton has been expounding these views in *The Lancet*, of which he is the editor. Now he unleashes them on the television audience and confronts the medical establishment he so scorns. Among those on the receiving end, but not slow to fight back, are Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the BMA, the presidents of the Royal Colleges and the president of the General Medical Council. **Peter Waymark**

RADIO CHOICE

Test Match Special
Radio 4, 11am, Long Wave only

In the footnotes of cricket's history, let it be recorded that on this day Aggers, Blowers and CM-J gazed out from their wooden redoubt attached to the Lord's Pavilion for the last time, or at least for the start of the last match: the second Test between England and South Africa. The wooden hut-cum-shed that has been *Test Match Special*'s quarters for 41 years is to be superseded by the new media centre at the Nursery End, a broadcasting landmark which the team will no doubt be commenting upon in slack moments on the field. The excellent Gerald de Kock is the South African presence in the team for this series. Please note that all other daytime Radio 4 programmes are on FM only.

A Hard Act To Follow
Radio 4, 9am

There has been a certain amount of trafficking in presenters between Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live of late, but this is not yet illegal even if it does upset some listeners. Diana Madill, one of the stalwarts of 5 Live and a Sony award winner for *The Magazine*, now comes to Radio 4 to present a series in which she interviews people who have taken over a job previously held by someone with a high profile, in one way or another. The series starts with Liz Allen, who succeeded the murdered Veronica Guerin as crime correspondent of the Dublin *Sunday Independent*. Allen proves to be a stout defender of journalistic integrity and of Guerin, posthumously accused of being reckless. **Peter Barnard**

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoë Ball 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley. Includes 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Mark Radcliffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 5.45 Newsbeat 6.00 Dave Pearce with the Mix at Six 8.30 Steve Lamacq: The Evening Session 8.30 Live Music Update 8.40 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00am Clive Warren 4.00 Chris Moyles

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Debbie Thrower 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 David Allan 8.00 Paul Jones 9.00 The Impro Musical 9.30 The Russ Abbot Show New series 10.00 Paul Gambaccini's Inside Track 10.30 Richard Allinson 12.05am Steve Madden 3.00 Katrina

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Nicky Campbell 12.00 The Midday News 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co Sybil Ruscoe in conversation with a guest, and racing from Royal Ascot 4.00 Nationwide and World Cup 98 7.00 News Extra David McNeil with a news round-up and sports bulletin 7.30 World Cup 98 France v Saudi Arabia 10.00 Late Night Live Presented by Nick Robinson 1.00am Up All Night 5.00 Morning Reports

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Paul Coyte 7.30 Ray Cokes 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Caimin Jones 5.00 Jeremy Clark

TALK RADIO

6.30am Bill and Kirsty 9.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.30 Sport 6.30 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Anna Raeburn 9.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins 5.00 Bill Overton

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15 World Cup Roundup 7.30 World of Football 8.00 News 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Meridian Live 9.00 News: (648 only) News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Westway 9.30 Everywoman 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 The Farming World 10.30 My First 100 Days 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 One Planet 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30pm World of Football 1.00 News; (648 only) News in German 1.05 World Business Report 1.15 Britain Today 1.30 Out for the Count 1.45 Sports Roundup 2.00 Newshour 3.00 News 3.05 Outlook 3.30 Megamix 4.00 News 4.05 Sports Roundup 4.15 Performance 4.30 Everywoman; (648 only) News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 6.00 News 6.15 Insight 6.30 From Our Own Correspondent; (648 only) News in German 6.45 Sports Roundup 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 The Works 8.00 News 8.01 Outlook 8.25 Pause for Thought 8.30 Multitrack X-Press 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.05 World Business Report 10.15 Britain Today 10.30 On Screen 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Insight 11.45 Sports Roundup 12.00 News 12.05am Outlook 12.30 Multitrack X-Press 1.00 Newsdesk 1.30 From Our Own Correspondent 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Omnibus 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Meridian Books 4.00 News 4.05 World Business Report 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 The World Today 5.00 The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Bailey Nick Bailey introduces music to ease listeners into the morning 8.00 Henry Kelly Michael Barry prepares baked glazed salmon. Plus, The Hall of Fame Hour 12.00 Lunchtime Requests Jane Jones with listeners' favourite pieces 2.00pm Concerto Vivaldi: Flute Concerto No 3 in D major, Il Gardellino 3.00 Jamie Crick Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics 6.30 Newsnight Headlines, arts news and guests, presented by John Brunning 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds 9.00 Evening Concert Rossini: Overture; The Italian Girl in Algiers. Richard Strauss: Burleske, Verdi: Messa da Requiem 11.00 Mann at Night Late-night music 2.00am Concerto 3.00 Mark Griffiths The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air Stephanie Hughes with news and arts news
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Mozart: Symphony No 40 in G minor
10.30 Artist of the Week: Cecilia Bartoli. Mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli plans her career very carefully and tries to balance operatic appearances with concert and recital performances
11.00 Sound Stories: Five Biblical Characters — John the Baptist, with Donald Macleod
12.00 Composer of the Week: Beethoven Beethoven and Archduke Rudolph with Misha Donat. Overture 'Egmont', Philharmonia/Kurt Sanderling. Piano Sonata in B flat, Op 106 (Hammerklavier), Alfred Brendel
1.00pm The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert (Inventing America) From the New World. The seventh of eight daily recitals featuring music with an American bias from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Conductors Mark Wigglesworth and Tadaaki Otaka
4.00 The Piano The Grieg and Grainger Connection. In 1906, the Australian pianist Percy Grainger met Edvard Grieg
4.45 Music Machine Cabaret. The American style of cabaret is very much alive in New York and has been for decades. Tommy Pearson sets the scene and learns about the history
5.00 In Tune Tonight the Royal Albert Hall sees the opening of English National Ballet's new staging of Prokofiev's ballet, Romeo and Juliet
7.30 Performance on 3 (Inventing America) London Symphony Orchestra. A concert given in April at the Barbican Centre, London
9.20 Postscript The Screenwriters — Hollywood in the 90s. Christopher Cook talks to five of Hollywood's most successful screenwriters
9.45 Orpheus Britannicus A selection of Purcell's songs realised by Britten
10.00 Music Restored Chris de Souza introduces the first of two Radio 3 Invitation Concerts
10.45 Night Waves Paul Allen explores the way glass has transformed the urban landscape
11.30 Jazz Notes (Inventing America) with Digby Fairweather. Brian Lemon and Brian Priestley pay tribute to pianist Mel Powell
12.00 Composer of the Week: Ives (Inventing America) with Chris Wines (r)
1.00am Through the Night

RADIO 4

6.00am Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
6.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament
9.00 (LW) Rejoins FM 9.00 Hard Act to Follow
9.30 Me and My Sidecar Philippa Budgen shares her passion for a ridiculed mode of transport
9.45 Serial: Boyhood George Baker reads J. M. Coetzee's moving account of a South African childhood, abridged by Katrin Williams
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
10.00 (LW) Rejoins FM 10.00 News; Woman's Hour
11.00 News: From Our Own Correspondent with Kate Adie
11.00 (LW) Test Match Special: England v South Africa
11.30 Rent 4 A six-part series of Lucy Flannery's award-winning comedy
12.00 (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast
12.00 News; You and Yours with Liz Barclay and Mark Whittaker 12.04pm (LW) Test Match Special: England v South Africa Further commentary from Lord's on the first day of the second Test 12.57 Weather
1.00 (LW) Rejoins FM 1.00 The World at One
1.30 (LW) Test Match Special: England v South Africa Further commentary from Lord's on the first day of the second Test. Including at 3.45 (approx) 'Teatime News' and 'County Talk'
1.30 Puzzle Panel
2.00 News; The Archers Usha is blissfully unaware. (Broadcast yesterday 7.00pm) (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: The Magic Caravan By Tim Green
3.00 News; Call You and Yours (0171) 580 4444
3.30 What's Yours is Mine Part four. Five very different couples talk to Rory Cellan-Jones about the part money plays in a relationship
3.45 Windrush: Talking Heads Part four
4.00 News; Law in Action Marcel Berlins explores how the law works
4.30 The Material World Modern archaeology employs a wide range of sophisticated scientific techniques to illuminate the past
5.00 PM with Clare English and Charlie Lee-Potter
5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather
5.57 (LW) Test Match Special 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 (LW) Rejoins FM 6.30 Goodness Gracious Me
7.00 News; The Archers Brian makes Sammy an offer 7.15 Front Row with Mark Lawson
7.45 Under One Roof: Stairway to Heaven By Michele Hanson and Jenny Landreth, based on Michele Hanson's articles (r)
8.00 News; What If? New series. Radio's counter-factual history programme returns with more speculation about the past
8.30 The Week in Westminster
9.00 News; Hotlinks New series. Jez Nelson explores the latest in technological innovation
9.30 Hard Act to Follow Another chance to hear this morning's programme (r) 10.00 The World Tonight
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Master Georgie October 1854 — Funeral Procession Shadowed By Beatrice. Beryl Bainbridge's latest novel is abridged by Pauline Wallis. Read by Richard Griffiths. (9/10)
11.00 Late Night on 4: If You're So Clever, Why Aren't You Rich? Death.
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament
11.30 The Sound of Sound
12.00 (LW) Rejoins FM 12.00 News
12.30am The Late Story: Mexican Beans By Tamar Yellin, read by Joanna Monro
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service
5.30 World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecasts 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today with Rachel Morgan

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.

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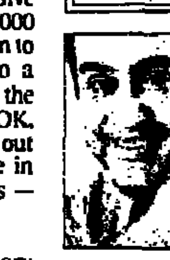
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BBC biology: enough to drive one to drink

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

When Professor Robert Winston says that "the human brain is a miracle of evolution. It's the most complicated object in the known universe", you can only nod sagely and reply, "Yes Robert, it certainly is — except, of course, for Jimmy Hill's during post-match comments during the World Cup." But since the brain is so smart that it controls all our thoughts, all our actions, our speech, interprets the images that hit our retina, translates sounds so that we recognise them as Mozart, interprets taste so we can distinguish between beans and bananas, then letting your brain make you say that the brain is a miracle ... well, isn't it a bit self-referential? Who controls the ego's ego? If you work on your mind with your mind, how can you avoid an immense confusion?

Winston didn't tackle that particular paradox in **The Human Body** (BBC1) on *Brain Power* last night, but he tackled several other complex questions and, when he could tackle them no more, he got drunk as a lord (because, well, he *is* a lord) on cabernet sauvignon to show us just how easily the brain's efficiency can be disrupted ("What was I saying. What *was* I saying ... wait a minute ... CUT! ... Where's the coffee ... Just say 'Action!' and I'll be on the ball ... I'm not sure I can get my head round this completely now"). It could become a snappy new pub shorthand ("He's completely Robert Winstoned!").

Getting drunk was all part of the BBC's attempt to explain things in a way that nobody has explained them before. But nobody has explained them this way before for a very good reason. For example, what do you make of the professor's way of explaining, in a simple way, the system by which messages sizzle along the 100 billion neurons in our brain? "It's hard to grasp the sheer scale of all these connections. Imagine a bustling city the size of New York. Give every person in that city 10,000 pieces of string. Tell each person to attach each piece of string to a different person. Now make the city a thousand times bigger." OK, just give me a minute to work it out — let's see, the card you have in your hand is the Jack of clubs — am I right?

I think he moved on to memory next. To understand how some people manage to remember the sequence of a deck of cards, or every Derby winner this century, Winston asked memory man Dominic O'Brien — who presumably *hasn't* lost track of the number of memory competitions he's won over the years — how he does it.

The trick, said O'Brien, is to translate dull facts into stories. To remember a list of 100 digits, O'Brien breaks them down into memorable pairs. So 10 might be Dudley Moore, 07 is James Bond, and 99 is Mr Whippy, thus 100799 becomes Dudley Moore meets James Bond for an ice cream. *Maybe this is why accountants* find book-keeping so exciting: if you read 1011882199 as: "Tony Blair and Gordon Brown meet two fat ladies, who produce the key of the door and once inside they all indulge in some Mr Whippy", it can make even your London Electricity Customer Reference Number look saucy.

I'm beginning to wonder if Ruth Rogers and Rose Gray of Channel 4's **The Italian Kitchen** aren't a little saucier than we first thought. Week after week they chide you in gentle but firm ways — like kindly school matrons — for not using the very best olive oil, or for not flying *to Bari to savour what is the* tastiest bread in the world. They are "Miss Disciplines" of the kitchen, offering "culinary correction" and gastronomic escapism to food-lovers whose wives just don't understand them, wives who cook their men baked beans on toast instead of bruschetta made with *borlotti beans, and then drizzle it* with Mazola and Saxa instead of first-pressing olive oil and Maldon sea salt, with a squeeze of Jif instead of organic lemon.

Their services don't come cheap. If you need to ask the price, look elsewhere. Last night Rose used only fresh organic lemons; Pugliese bread cooked *in a* wood-burning oven heated with almond shells, was "probably the best bread in the world"; for her zucchini carpaccio, Ruth warned us to "use *only* Reggiano Parmigiano because it's the best-quality Parmesan cheese", and if Miss Discipline finds out you've been *using inferior Parmesan* she's going to make sure you realise that you've been a naughty, naughty boy.

Maybe that's why so many rich businessmen sneak away from the office at lunchtime for a dose of "culinary correction" at the hands of Miss Rose and Miss Ruth.

If you needed further convincing, you had only to hear Miss Ruth gushing that "spring and summer vegetables are so exciting that we never think of them as an accompaniment to meat or to fish but as something that really stand *up on their own". I'll bet they do.*

In **Leviathan** (BBC2) last night, Mark Urban looked back at the history of grand domes in England: there was the one Brunel designed for the Great Exhibition of 1851 that was never built after a whispering campaign against it, then the Dome of Discovery at the *1951* Festival of Britain, which Churchill melted down as soon as Labour was out of office again.

Now Ruth Rogers's architect husband, Richard, is building the new Millennium Dome at Greenwich. Urban wants to know why the British are so obsessed with domes. The answer is, we aren't. The only person not to have realised this is Peter Mandelson. Why? Who knows. Maybe he was slightly Robert Winstoned when he gave the go-ahead for the project.

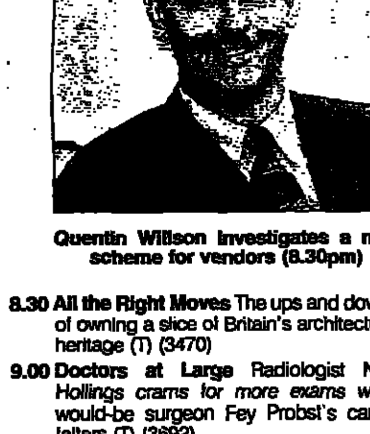
BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (33741)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (67875)
9.00 All Over the Shop (r) (1929050)
9.20 Kilroy (T) (1745166)
10.00 The General (91692)
10.30 Royal Ascot: First Show Jim McGrath and Clare Balding preview the Ascot Gold Cup, the feature event on Ladies' Day at *the Royal meeting (7714586)*
10.50 News (T) regional news and weather (4907857)
10.55 International Cricket: Second Test — England v South Africa. Tony Lewis introduces the early action on day one of the Lord's Test (64562925)
12.30pm Neighbours Toadie manages to outmanoeuvre wily DJ Craig Richards (T) (5104944)
12.55 Turning Points Screenwriter Johnny Speight (r) (46226050)
1.00 News (T) and weather (17352)
1.30 Regional News (97356925)
1.40 Royal Ascot Clare Balding and Willie Carson introduce coverage of the **2.30** Ribblesdale Stakes, **3.05** Norfolk Stakes and **3.45** Ascot Gold Cup (94933963)
***4.00 Fievel's American Tails** (r) (3312012)*
4.25 Mr Wymi A film director spells trouble for Matron and her car (r) (T) (2002296) **4.40** Goosebumps. Plucky youngsters Stephanie and Duane explore a house reputed to be haunted by a 1,000-year-old headless phantom (T) (7374483)
5.00 Newsround (T) (4458429)
5.10 Record Breakers Hosted by Kriss *Akabusi, Cheryl Baker and Dan Roland (r)* (T) (6208437)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (796418)
6.00 Six O'Clock News (T) and weather (857)
6.30 Regional News (437)
7.00 Tomorrow's World Peter Snow investigates a radical new technique for *reclaiming land from the sea, while Craig Doyle puts squirrels through an intelligence test to discover the secret* behind their amazing memory (T) (7673)
7.30 World Cup 98 Live: France v Saudi Arabia (Kick-off 8pm). Desmond Lynam sets the scene at the Stade de France in St Denis (T) (491673)
10.00 News (T) regional news and weather (47708)
10.30 Smith and Jones Outlandish comedy from Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones (r) (T) (23128)
11.00 Question Time A London audience seek answers from a panel of political guests in a debate hosted by David Dimbleby. Last *in series (576586)*
12.05am Royal Ascot Highlights Rerun of the Ascot Gold Cup presented by Richard Pitman (6220364)
12.30 Father, Son and the Mistress (1992) Jack Lemmon stars as an eccentric millionaire who tries to heal a rift in his family by renouncing material wealth, then has to resort to more desperate measures to achieve happiness. *Directed by Jay Sandrich (T) (1222838)*
1.55 Weather (7692155)
2.00 BBC News 24

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BBC2

6.10am Insect Hormones (7806944) **6.35** Regulation and Control (2879760)
7.00 Teletubbies (r) (2953505) **7.25** Goober and the Ghost Chasers (2932012) **7.50** *Blue Peter (r) (T) (2663673)* **8.15** Yogi's Space Race (7166437) **8.35** Hairy Jeremy (7512147) **8.45** The Record (4215012)
9.10 Go for It! (4252147) **9.25** Job Bank *(4324654)* **9.35** Job Bank (8099012) **9.45** Come Outside (8019876) **10.00** Teletubbies (r) (99234) **10.30** Storytime (5921465) **10.45** Teaching Today (634128) **11.15** Zig Zag (1319505) **11.35** *Landmarks (7698437)* ***11.55** Lifeschool* (6222352)
12.30pm Cricket: Second Test England v South Africa. Day one at Lord's (63234)
1.00 The Family Ness (25588128) **1.05** Working Lunch (39498505)
1.35 Cricket: Second Test England v South Africa. Commentary by Richie Benaud, Barry Richards, David Gower and Chris Broad (94918654)
3.50 News; Regional News and weather (3334234)
3.55 Royal Ascot, Cricket and Women's Tennis Royal Ascot: Coverage of the *4.20; Cricket: England v South Africa;* Tennis: The Direct Line Insurance Ladies' Championship (21783963)
6.45 Star Trek: Voyager (r) (T) (230050)
7.30 Regional Programmes (963)
8.00 Looking Good Lowri Turner presents highlights from the first series of the essential fashion and beauty guide (4963) **WALES:** On The House



Quentin Willson investigates a new scheme for vendors (8.30pm)

8.30 All the Right Moves The ups and downs of owning a slice of Britain's architectural heritage (T) (3470)
9.00 Doctors at Large Radiologist Nick *Hollings crams for more exams while* would-be surgeon Fey Probst's career falters (T) (3692)
9.30 Survival Guide: Immunisation Report on the vaccination of new-born babies (T) (924031)
9.40 CHOICE **Let Them Eat Crisps (But Only Sometimes)** The health risks associated with being overweight (T) (293166)
10.20 Survival Guide: Hyperactivity The signs and symptoms of hyperactivity and "attention deficit disorder" (T) (237302)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (226789)
11.15 Cricket: Second Test Highlights (910876) *11.55 Weather 12.00 The* Midnight Hour (30819)
12.30 am O U: Healthy Futures (18109) **1.00** Powers of the President (96109) **2.00** Working with Others *(84971)* **4.00** *Film Education (53154)* **4.30** Documenting D-Day (28635) **5.00** Teacher Training (3996884) **5.45** O U: Clayoquot Sound (94109)

HTV

6.00am GMTV (2526418)
9.25 This Morning (T) (4337128)
9.30 Vanessa (T) (1891876)
10.10 This Morning (T) (39854470)
12.15pm Regional News (1052215)
12.30 News (T) and weather (50760)
1.00 Shortland Street Wedding bells ring for Kirsty and Lionel; and Gina's secret is out (31708)
1.30 House Hunters (59031)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4601857)
2.45 Waffle (T) (929708)
3.15 News (9048321)
3.20 Regional News (9045234)
3.25 Potamus Park (9035857) **3.35** The Riddlers (6980760) **3.45** Cartoon Time (6244012) **3.55** Zzzap! (r) (8344944)
4.15 World Cup 98 Live: South Africa v Denmark Jim Rosenthal presents live coverage of the Group C match from Toulouse (T) (75906944)
6.30 ITN News (T) and weather (514437)
6.50 Regional News (743012)
7.00 Emmerdale Steve lashes out at Ned (T) (2741)



Judy Finnigan endeavours to answer consumer questions (7.30pm)

7.30 We Can Work it Out Judy Finnigan investigates the compensation offered when travel companies cancel holidays (789)
7.30 WALES: Inquisition (789)
8.00 CHOICE **Bramwell** Eleanor finds herself confronting the world of child prostitution (T) (7383)
10.00 News at Ten (T) and weather (32876)
10.30 Regional News (356079)
10.40 Fantasy World Cup Live Highlights and analysis, not all entirely serious, with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, Jeff Astle and "Statto", plus star guests (285741)
11.10 World Cup 98 — Encore! Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of France v Saudi Arabia and South Africa v Denmark. With John Barnes, Terry Venables and Ron Atkinson (590166)
12.10am Public Morals $1,000 disappears from a stash confiscated from an illegal gambling house (3918616)
12.20 WALES: We Can Work It Out with Judy Finnigan (T) (3918616)
12.50 The Jerry Springer Show: Why'd You Cheat? (8639180)
1.40 SFX presented by Kate Thornton (r) (8627345)
2.05 Planet Mirth Comic sketches with Milton *Jones, Rudi Lickwood, Emma Kennedy* and Ben Moor (r) (19548)
2.35 Fantasy World Cup with David Baddiel and Frank Skinner *(r)* (25155)
3.10 The Chart Show (r) (8424567)
3.50 Vanessa (r) (T) (1243096)
4.25 Cybernet (r) (9253219)
4.45 ITV Nightscreen (6975180)
5.30 News (28074)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
1.00pm A Country Practice (31706)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5582708)
6.55-7.00 Lifeline (630645)
12.15am The Jerry Springer Show (5098277)
1.05 FILM: The Swiss Conspiracy (946118)
2.40 Box Office America (8568548)
3.10 Fantasy World Cup (57734838)
3.35 We Can Work It Out (86091155)
4.05 Central Jobfinder '98 (9759161)
5.20 Asian Eye (5835074)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.15pm Westcountry News (1052215)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (5754532)
1.00 Emmerdale (31708)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (5582708)
6.50-7.00 Westcountry Live (743012)
12.10am Tales from the Crypt (3918616)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.30 News and Weather (1052215)
1.30-2.00 Quisine (59031)
6.50-7.00 Meridian Tonight (743012)
12.10am Tales from the Darkside (3918616)
5.00 Freescreen (92722)

ANGLIA

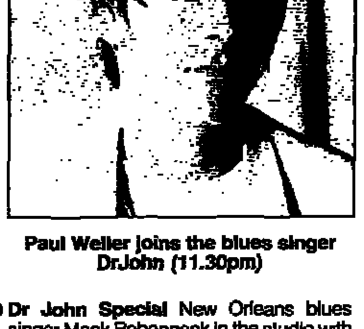
As HTV West except:
12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7659168)
1.00-1.30 Hope and Gloria (31708)
6.29-6.30 Anglia Air Watch (606857)
6.49 Anglia Weather (335893)
10.29 Anglia Air Watch (509031)
12.10am Tales from the Darkside (3918616)

S4C

Starts: **6.00 Sesame Street** (66079)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (29963)
9.00 History in Action (1912760)
9.20 Geographical Eye (1909296)
9.40 Equinox (5882692)
***10.30 Raw Talent** (8581673)*
10.35 Newes of the Week (8076334)
10.50 Express (8590321)
11.00 Technology for Today (5296)
***11.30 Powerhouse** (6925)*
12.00pm Ricki Lake (39789)
12.30 Sesame Street (58302)
1.00 Slot Meithrin (22050)
1.30 Begone Dull Care (97372963)
1.40 FILM: You Were Never Lovelier (19991499)
3.30 Watercolour Challenge (383)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (418)
4.30 Countdown (302)
5.00 5 Pump (2037)
5.30 Pet Rescue (654)
6.00 Newyddion 6 (436925)
6.10 Heno (664708)
7.00 Pobol y Cwm (909741)
7.25 Pryd o Dafod (285760)
8.00 Jocars (9031)
8.30 Newyddion (8166)
9.00 Dawson's Creek (4673)
10.00 *FILM: Doc Hollywood* (644012)
11.55 TV Offal (120876)
12.25am Michael Hayes (5903155)
1.20 Dr John Special (7483616)
2.05 Close (28428426)

CHANNEL 4

6.00am Sesame Street (r) (66079)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (T) (29963)
9.00 Schools: History in Action (1912760) **9.20** Geographical Eye (1909296) **9.40** Equinox (5882692) **10.30** Raw Talent (8581673) **10.35** Newes of the Weeke (8076334) **10.50** Express (8590321) **11.00** Technology for Today (5296)
11.30 Powerhouse (T) (6925) **12.00** Sesame Street (39789) **12.30pm** Light Lunch (r) (T) (66586) **1.30** Stroke (76447895)
1.35 The Rebel (1960, b/w) with Tony Hancock, Paul Massie and George Sanders. An office clerk travels to Paris to become an artist. Directed by Robert Day (T) (54941741)
3.30 Watercolour Challenge from Burford House Gardens (383) **4.00** Fifteen-to-One (T) (418) **4.30** Countdown (T) (5777944) **4.55** Ricki Lake (7549925) **5.30** Pet Rescue (T) (654)
6.00 Roseanne (r) (T) (895)
6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (147)
7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (833296)
7.50 The Windrush Years Mavis Stewart rose to the role of senior health manager (T) (783401)
8.00 Celebrity Countdown Last in the series, *of the words and numbers game with* Graeme Garden and *Times* columnists Alan Coren and Matthew Parris (T) (9031)
8.30 CHOICE **Real Gardens** Monty Don and the team revisit four *gardens from the series (T) (8166)*
9.00 Doc Hollywood (1991) Romantic comedy with Michael J. Fox as an arrogant plastic surgeon stranded in a small town. Michael Caton-Jones directs (T) (4296)
11.00 CHOICE **Cradle to Grave: The Citadel** Dr Richard Horton argues that the British medical establishment does not serve the National Health Service well (T) (5555)



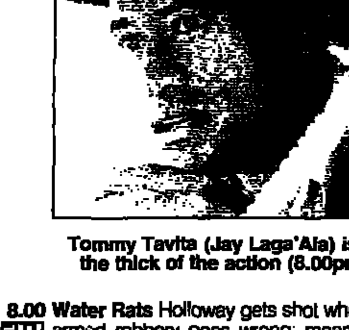
Paul Weller joins the blues singer DrJohn (11.30pm)

11.30 Dr John Special New Orleans blues singer Mack Rebennack in the studio with Paul Weller, Supergrass, Spiritualized *and Primal Scream (244470)*
12.15am Michael Hayes: Gotterdammerung Michael uncovers a former Nazi (T) (7724703)
1.10 Joe MacBeth (1955, b/w) with Paul *Douglas, Ruth Roman and Sid James. An* updated interpretation of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*. Directed by Ken Hughes (900513)
2.45 Eye Witness (1956, b/w) Thriller with *Donald Sinden, Nigel Stock and Muriel* Pavlow. A woman stumbles upon the aftermath of a robbery, unwittingly endangering her life. Directed by Muriel Box (206635)
4.20 High Interest (r) (T) (8488529)
5.00 Animal (r) (4250987)
5.15 Heaven, Hell and Suburbia (8779548)

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder No 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a **Videocrypt decoder** will be able to receive the channel free of charge. Frequencies for transponder No 63 are picture: **10.92075 GHz**; sound: **7.02** and **7.20 MHz**

6.00am 5 News and Sport (8181708)
7.00 WideWorld (r) (T) (8364079) **7.30** Milkshake! (3367296) **7.35** Wind in the Willows (2197234) **8.00** Havakazoo (r) *(4490499)* **8.30** Dappledown Farm (r) (4482470)
9.00 Realm of the Polar Bear (r) (T) (4406050)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (4942215)
10.20 Sunset Beach (T) (8852673) **11.10** Leeza (5147401)
12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (4493586) **12.30pm** Family Affairs (r) (T) (4307499) **1.00** The Bold and the Beautiful (T) (8356050) **1.30** Sons and Daughters (4399470) **2.00** 100 Per Cent Gold (2112811) **2.30** Open House with Gloria Hunniford (9429234)
3.30 Wyoming Mail (1950) with Stephen *McNally, Alexis Smith and Howard da* Silva. Western about a man who infiltrates a gang of outlaws who have been robbing mail trains. Directed by Reginald de Borg (6630673)
5.10 The Oprah Winfrey Show: Letters to **Oprah** (1367302)
6.00 100 Per Cent (1620037)
6.30 Family Affairs Mel is shocked to find Roy and Susie in an embrace (T) (7925429)
7.00 5 News (T) (4017447)
7.30 Realm of the Polar Bear: Mystery of the Fossil Forest Documenting the recently-discovered fossilised forest on Axel Heilberg Island (T) (5020893)



Tommy Tavita (Jay Laga'Aia) is in the thick of the action (8.00pm)

8.00 Water Rats Holloway gets shot when an armed robbery goes wrong; meanwhile Webb gets a vital tip-off from an old flame, but he is surprised to learn of her real connection to the case (5070893)
9.00 A Deadly Silence (1989, TVM) with Mike Farrell, Sally Struthers and Heather Fairfield. Drama about a shocking secret uncovered when an apparently average family man is gunned down. Directed by John Patterson (T) (61931963)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show (8682857)
11.30 Hotline A security guard plots revenge on her commanding officer (7769760)
12.05am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine with Shelley Webb and Kevin Day. Includes action from the US Major League game between San Jose and Chicago (24420074)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (8246819)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (6928155)

SATELLITE AND CABLE

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY 1

7.00am Tattooed Teenage Alien Fighters (47383) **7.30** Games World (6790925) **7.45** Simpsons (51741) **8.15** Oprah (1186147) **9.00** Hotel (54811) **10.00** Another World (55302) *11.00 Days of Our Lives* (75166) **12.00** Married with Children (79321) **12.30pm** M*A*S*H (2954925) **12.55** Special K Collection (63570906) **1.00** Geraldo (4331321) **1.55** Special K Collection (41054505) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (6058895) **2.55** Special K Collection (4865166) **3.00** Jenny Jones (8546019) **3.55** Special K Collection (4306692) **4.00** Oprah (22437) **5.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (3876) **6.00** The Nanny (8437) **6.30** Married with Children (9789) **7.00** *Simpsons* (4505) **7.30** Simpsons (8673) **8.00** America's Dumbest Criminals (4875) **8.30** Seinfeld (2760) **9.00** Friends (11321) **9.30** Friends (92760) **10.00** Friends (70050) **10.30** Friends (56470) **11.00** Star Trek: Next Generation (56031) **12.00** L.A.P.D. (72819) **12.30am** L.A.P.D. (54971) **1.00** Long Play

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888 Each film costs £2.99 per viewing
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 26) **Absolute Power (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **Liar, Liar (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Batman & Robin (1997)**
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Gridlock'd (1997)**

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 1

6.00am Out of Time *(1988)* (67489789) **7.40 Dangerous Curves** (1988) (10517302) **9.20 My Ghost Dog (1997)** (88779963) **11.00 Flipper (1996)** (79166) **1.00pm Out of Time (1988)** (47895) **3.00 Cocoon: The Return (1988)** (47692) **5.00 My Ghost Dog (1997)** (52654) **7.00 Flipper (1996)** (52215) **9.00 Talk to Me (1996)** (71951708) **10.45 My Family (1994)** (42229418) **12.55am Overdrive (1997)** (124345) **2.30 The Price of Love (1995)** (60277) **4.00 Lurking Fear (1994)** (68426)

SKY MOVIES SCREEN 2

6.00am The Sky Palace (1994) (15079) **8.00 The Black Rose (1950)** (21857) **10.00 Tom, Dick and Harry (1941)** (81654) **12.00 The Ascent (1995)** (44708) **2.00pm The Black Rose (1950)** (46505) **4.00 Tom, Dick and Harry (1941)** (9050) **6.00 The Ascent (1995)** (75710925) **8.00 Hotel Sorrento (1996)** (38586) **10.00 The Glimmer Man (1996)** (728873) **11.35 Siren's Kiss (1995)** (776505) **1.10am Strictly Business (1991)** (9085600) **2.35 The Odyssey (1997)** (32163906)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm Fire Down Below (1956) (7118789) **6.00 Earth Girls Are Easy (1989)** (1582437) **8.00 Shirley Valentine (1989)** (1554654) **10.00 Prince of the City (1981)** (48635418) **12.45am Graffiti Bridge (1990)** (6495242) **2.15 My Geisha (1962)** (4538567) **4.15 Back Street (1941)** (91408548) **5.40** Close

TNT

9.00pm T Bone 'n' Weasel (1992) (48410012) **11.00 Shaft (1971)** (22879166) **1.00am The Best House in London (1969)** (22820890) **3.00 T Bone 'n' Weasel (1992)** (46263109) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre (3484166) **7.15** Wrestling (595925) **8.15** Sports Centre (2760654) **8.30** Racing (17692) **9.00** Aerobics (99924) **9.30** Rebel Sports (43505) **10.00** World of Super League (23741) **12.00** Aerobics (28708) **12.30pm** Snooker (93692) **2.30** Sports Unlimited (50741) **3.30** Rebel Sports (4215) **4.00** Dancing (39741) **5.00** Wrestling (3418) **6.00** Sports Centre (6429) **6.30** Futbol Mundial (4079) **7.00** Dancing (65654) **8.00** Rugby Union (74302) **9.00** Trans World Sport (94166) **10.00** World Cup Phone-In (975383) **10.45** Sports Centre (520692) **11.00** Formula Three (30470) **11.30** Futbol Mundial (77050) **12.00** *Sports Centre (5842906)* **12.15am** Tight Lines (776635) **1.15** Trans World Sport (772818) **2.15** World Cup Phone-In (2672258) **3.00** Sports Centre (67196093) **3.15** Rugby Union (689155) **4.15** Dancing (783221) **5.15** Sports Centre (3373819)

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics (8923741) **7.30** Sports Centre (6958147) **7.45** Racing News (3854963) **8.15** Euro Tour Golf Weekly *(1812944)* **8.45** Sports Centre (9998963) **9.00** Fish TV (8427234) **10.00** Golf Extra (2846050) **1.30pm** Watersports World (2019437) **2.30** Futbol Mundial (6103708) **3.00** World of Super League (3114060) **5.00** Petrolheads (5826963) **6.00** Equestrianism (6104437) **6.30** Inside the PGA Tour (6195789) **7.00** Live US Golf. US Open (3235383) **3.30am** Sports Centre (92227819) **3.45** NHL Ice Hockey (3735819) **5.45** Sports Centre (88546068)

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Wrestling (62362383) **1.00pm** Fish TV (50661012) **1.30** Live Tennis. Nottingham Open (18080050) **6.00** Rebel Sports (36286376) **6.30** Formula Three (36277128) **7.00** Tight Lines (48433963) **8.00** Cricket: Second Test (48420499) **10.00** Football Scrapbook (97801470) **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

6.00am World Cup Premiere (10657) **7.30** World Cup — Le Mix (33708) **9.00** Italy v Cameroon (50383) **11.00** Rendez-Vous France 98 (17166) **12.00** World Cup — Le Mix (12296) **1.30pm** Tennis: Heineken Trophy — Live (77079) **3.00** Cycling: Tour of Switzerland — Live (45302) **4.00** Tennis: Rosmalen ATP (35147) **5.30** Bowling (39532) **6.30** World Cup — Le March (80128) **7.30** France v Saudi Arabia — Live (673215) **10.00** South Africa v Denmark (44673) **12.00** Journal (14819)

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads (2855147) **7.30** Neighbours (8667079) **7.55** EastEnders (5259963) **8.30** The Bill (7372673) **9.00** The Bill (7363925) **9.30** Juliet Bravo (3323586) **10.30** The Sullivans (7392437) **11.00** Dallas (2437789) **11.55** Neighbours (29888925) **12.25pm** EastEnders (3098215) **1.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7607031) **2.00** Dallas (5520128) **2.55** The Bill (1864925) **3.25** The Bill (6977012) **3.45** Juliet Bravo (40597499) **4.55** EastEnders (2727302) **5.30** Wowlabgroovy (7559895) **6.00** All Creatures Great and Small (7627895) **7.00** Last of the Summer Wine (4927147) **7.40** Waiting for God (5992050) **8.20** Butterflies (2062215) **9.00** Bugs (78738418) **10.05** Bottom (6471334) **10.45** The Comic Strip Presents (5332215) **11.30** The Bill (5447924) **12.00** The Bill (8272987) **12.30am** Live at Jongleurs (8263722) **1.00** The Equalizer (2942787) **1.50** The Equaliser (3325426) **2.40** Shopping (81308258)

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am *The Box* (2379708) **7.00** El Uncut (7794166) **7.30** Coronation St (7773873) **8.00** Dempsey & Makepeace (2799383) **9.00** Mission: Impossible (4361836) **10.00** The Return of the Saint (7779857) **11.00** Hawaii Five-O (7782321) **12.00** Coronation St (2108302) **12.30pm** Families (5109418) **1.00** The Cuckoo Waltz (7793437) **1.30** On the Buses (5108789) **2.00** Mission: Impossible (7341708) **3.00** Dempsey & Makepeace (6939505) **4.00** Hawaii Five-O (6918012) **5.00** The Return of the Saint (7599031) **6.00** Families (9725708) **6.30** Coronation St (9709760) **7.00** Doctor at Large (7590760) **7.30** Doctor on the Go (9705844) **8.00** Dempsey & Makepeace (1187586) **9.00** Mission Impossible (1190050) **10.00** The Return of the Saint (1700437) **11.00** Men & Motors (6685012)

CARLTON SELECT (CABLE)

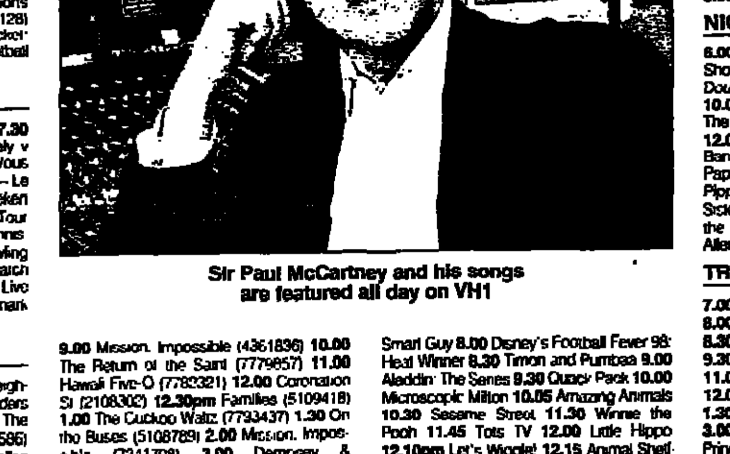
5.00pm Blockbusters (66332128) **5.30** Gridlock (36294895) **6.00** Byker Grove (36291708) **6.30** My Two Wives (36275760) **7.00** Sharpe (50697437) **9.00** Sharpe (48427302) **11.00** The Irish RM (50686321) **12.00** Doctor Down Under (97892722) **12.30am** Relative Strangers (17569426)

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Lamb Chop's Playalong! **6.30** Jungle Cubs **7.00** Aladdin: The Series **7.30** Smart Guy **8.00** Disney's Football Fever 98: Heat Winner **8.30** Timon and Pumbaa **9.00** Aladdin: The Series **9.30** Quack Pack **10.00** Microscopic Milton **10.05** Amazing Animals **10.30** Sesame Street **11.30** Winnie the Pooh **11.45** Tots TV **12.00** Little Hippo **12.10pm** Let's Wiggle! **12.15** Animal Shelf **12.30** Rosie and Jim **12.45** Small Stones **12.50** Bear in the Big Blue House **1.20** Winnie the Pooh **1.35** Chip 'n' Dale **2.00** Goof Troop **2.30** Jungle Cubs **3.00** Timon and Pumbaa **3.30** Brand Spanking New Doug **4.00** Pepper Ann **4.30** Recess **5.00** Smart Guy **5.30** Student Bodies **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: Picture Perfect** **8.30** The Wonder Years **9.00** Touched by an Angel **10.00** Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Power Rangers Zeo **6.30** Power Rangers Zeo **7.00** X Men **7.25** Casper **7.35** Mortal Kombat **8.00** Goosebumps **8.25** Sam and Max **8.35** Beetleborgs Metallix **9.00** Masked Rider **9.30** Grimm's Fairy Tales **10.00** Pinocchio **10.30** Peter Pan **11.00** Oliver Twist **11.30** Huckleberry Finn **12.00** Gulliver's Travels **12.30pm** Eek! Stravaganza **12.42** The Mouse and the Monster **12.54** Casper **1.06** Terrible Thunderlizards **1.18** Sam and Max **1.30** Samurai Pizza Cats **2.00** Eagle Riders **2.30** Conan the Adventurer **3.00** Fantastic Four **3.30** Donkey Kong Country **4.00** *The Incredible Hulk* **4.50** *Casper* **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana **5.50** Sam and Max **6.00** Goosebumps **6.25** Sweet Valley High **6.50** Home to Rent **7.00** Close



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CARTOON NETWORK

All your favourite cartoons broadcast from **5.00am** *to* **9.00pm**, *seven days a week*

NICKELODEON

6.00am Count Duckula **6.30** The Littlest Pet Shop **7.00** Hey Arnold! **7.30** Rugrats **8.00** *Doug* **8.30** *Oscar's Orchestra* **9.00** CBBC **10.00** Wimzie's House **10.30** Babar **11.00** The Magic School Bus **11.30** PB Bear etc **12.00** Rugrats **12.30pm** Blue's Clues **1.00** Bananas in Pyjamas **1.30** Franklin **2.00** Papa Beaver **2.30** CBBC **3.30** Doug **4.00** Pippi Longstocking **4.30** Rugrats **5.00** Sister Sister **5.30** Kenan & Kel **6.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **6.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am Earthworm Jim **7.30** *USA High* **8.00** Saved by the Bell: The College Years **8.30** California Dreams **9.00** Hang Time **9.30** Heartbreak High **10.30** Echo Point **11.00** Ready or Not **11.30** Earthworm Jim **12.00** Sweat **12.30pm** Heartbreak High **1.30** Echo Point **2.00** Hollyoaks **2.30** Blast **3.00** Sweat **3.30** Ready or Not **4.00** Fresh Prince of Bel Air **4.30** Saved by the Bell: The College Years **5.00** Hollyoaks **5.30** California Dreams **6.00** Hang Time **6.30** Bangs **6.45** What a Life **7.00** USA High **7.30** Fresh Prince of Bel Air **8.00** Close

CHALLENGE TV

5.00pm Crosswits **5.45** Family Fortunes **6.30** Catchphrase **7.15** Fifteen to One **7.55** *The Crystal Maze* **9.15** *Strike It Lucky* **10.00** 3-2-1 **11.15** Trivial Pursuit **12.00** Sale of the Century **12.30am** Moonlighting **1.30** Sweet Justice **2.30** Big Brother Jake **3.00** Snowy River: The McGregor Saga **4.00** The Big Valley **5.00** Screenshop

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team (3471470) **9.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (8458050) **9.30** Cops (7624708) **10.00** Italian Stripping Housewives (7379586) **10.30** World Cup Uncovered (7368234) **11.00 FILM: Parasite (1982)** (3489505) **1.00am** Beverly Hills Bordello (4291364) **1.30** Italian Stripping Housewives (3363513) **2.00** Real Stories of the Highway Patrol (7411884) **2.30** Cops (7503819) **3.00 FILM: Hard Edge** *(7734890)* **5.00** *The A-Team* (7143068)

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Clueless (2789) **7.30** Roseanne (1505) **8.00** Grace Under Fire (1437) **8.30** Caroline in the City (1924) **9.00** Cybill (66895) **9.30** Ellen (32499) **10.00** Frasier (27079) **10.30** Cheers (49429) **11.00** Monty Python's Flying Circus (38012) **11.30** Mad for It (75692) **12.00** Nurses (10093) **12.30am** It's Garry Shandling's Show (32155) **1.00** Frasier (16971) **1.30** Cheers (34819) **2.00** Caroline in the City (97451) **2.30** Mad for It (83258) **3.00** Roseanne (85285) **3.30** Cybill (84058) **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

8.00pm Quantum Leap (9070302) **9.00** PSI *Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal* (9090165) **10.00 FILM: Conquest of Space (1955)** (1504760) **11.35** SF Scene Special (4033514) **12.00** Sightings (1323277) **1.00am** The Bionic Woman (3988154) **2.00** Friday the 13th (7550451) **3.00** Tales of the Unexpected (7827971) **3.30** Dark Shadows (1117345) **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

9.00am A Brush with Ashley **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** The Garden *Show* ***10.00** Garden Calendar* ***10.30** In the* Workshop **11.00** Rex Hunt's Fishing World **11.30** Hometime **12.00** Our House **12.30pm** This Old House **1.00** A Cook's Journey **1.30** Furniture on the Mend **2.00** This Old House **2.30** Tool Time **3.00** Wilson's World **3.30** *This Old House*

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures II **4.30** Zoo Story **5.00** First Flights **5.30** History's Turning Points **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Australian Sea Lion Story **7.30** Disaster **8.00** Science Frontiers **9.00** Flightline **9.30** Ultra Science **10.00** Forensic Detectives **11.00** Professionals **12.00** First Flights **12.30am** Disaster **1.00** The World's Most *Dangerous Animals* **2.00** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Esperanza: The Mountain Tapir **7.30** Looters! **8.00** Caymania **8.00** The Survivors **10.00** Sex, Lives and Holes in the Skies **11.00** Coming of Age with Elephants **12.00** Under the Ice **1.00am** Close

TRAVEL (CABLE)

12.00 The Great Escape **12.30pm** On The Horizon **1.00** Ridge Riders **1.30** The Rich Tradition **2.00** On Tour **2.30** Scandinavian Summers **3.00** The People And The Places Of Africa **3.30** Whicker's World **4.00** Destinations **5.00** Ridge Riders **5.30** The Friendship Drive **6.00** The Rich Tradition **6.30** On Tour **7.00** The Great Escape **7.30** On The Horizon **8.00** Go Portugal **8.30** The Flavours Of France **9.00** Destinations **10.00** Scandinavian Summers **10.30** The Food Lovers' Guide To Australia **11.00** The Friendship Drive **11.30** Whicker's World

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Victory at Sea **4.30** Men in Crisis **5.00** Weapons at War **6.00** Ancient Mysteries **7.00** Biography: Chiang Kai-Shek

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Food for Thought **10.00** Chef on a Shoestring **10.30** What's Cooking? **11.00** Worrall Thompson Cooks **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00** Food Network Daily **12.30pm** Caribbean Light **1.00** Food for Thought **1.30** Ideal Home Cooks **2.00** Chef on a Shoestring **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** A Year at Ballymaloe **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** From the Ground Up **4.30** Travels a la Carte **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Living **9.00** Rolonda **9.50** Ready, Steady, Cook **10.30** The Young and the Restless **11.20** Brookside **11.50** Jimmy's **12.20pm** Animal Rescue **12.50** Rescue 911 **1.25** Hart to Hart **2.20** Living It Up! **3.20** Rolonda **4.10** Tempestt **5.00** The Heat is On **5.30** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.10** Jerry Springer **7.00** Rescue 911 **7.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **8.00** Adrenalin Junkies **9.00 FILM: Babies** **11.00** Jerry Springer **12.00** Close

ZEE TV

6.30am Nirsayo **7.00** Jaagran **7.30** Business **8.00** News **8.30** Bunyaad **9.00** Jeevan Jyoti **9.30** Geet Gaata Chal **10.00** Karb **11.00** Pot Luck **11.30** Kurukshetra **12.00** FILM **3.00pm** Chashme Baddoor **3.30** Dastaan **4.00** Campus **4.30** Vikram Aur Betaal **5.00** Aur Ek Minute **5.30** Antakshari **6.00** Banegi Apni Baat **6.30** Lollywood **7.00** Dam Dama Dam **7.30** Cinemagic **8.00** News **8.30** Andaz **9.30** Hasratein **10.00** Shotgun **10.30** Suspence **11.30** Horror



RACING 47
Exclusive scoop for Swinburn at Royal Ascot

SPORT

THURSDAY JUNE 18 1998

TOMORROW
Phil Neville's view from World Cup limbo



Stewart scare puts strain on England



Graveney: harassed

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ALEC STEWART has shown such a broad back to the cricketing world, with no burden apparently too heavy, that the shock of it letting him down yesterday was all the greater. The measure of Stewart's worth is that England must radically alter the shape of their side if their captain does not fully recover before the start of the second Cornhill Test match against South Africa at Lord's today.

Reaction to Stewart waking up with pain from a back spasm yesterday was swift and dramatic. Graeme Hick and Jack Russell, two men whose Test careers had widely been regarded as over, were summoned on standby and Nasser Hussain was told to be ready to take on the captaincy.

Mark Butcher, meanwhile, was all but ruled out after his bruised left thumb refused to respond to rest and treatment, so Steve James, a close friend of Michael Atherton since their days at Cambridge University, drove up from Wales to become the latest of his many opening partners.

This was hardly ideal preparation for a team anxious to consolidate their encouraging start to the series and even David Graveney's calm nature was tested by it, the chairman of selectors wearing an unusually strained expression as he detailed the permutations within what is now a 15-man squad.

There is apparently no question of Stewart playing purely as a batsman, so if he is unfit to keep wicket, both Hick and Russell will be included. Russell would bat at No 7 and England would revert to only four main bowlers, Ealham missing out and the last place falling either to Croft or Silverwood.

To make three enforced changes on the morning of a match, and to install a temporary captain, would distract the most resolute of teams and no amount of fine words from the management yesterday could dispel the potential impact. The good news, however, is that Stewart remains confident that he will be fit.

Long after a hastily arranged press conference had told of the uncertainty, Stewart could be found working with Alan Knott, his wicketkeeping mentor. He did not overstretch himself, either in movement or time, but he completed the session in heartened mood.

"I could feel some discomfort and I certainly wouldn't have wanted to keep wicket all day," Stewart said, "but from the times this has happened to me before, I'd be disappointed if I wasn't all right by the morning. I give myself a 75 per cent chance of playing." By curious coincidence, Stewart last suffered such a spasm on the Saturday of the Lord's Test a year ago. John Crawley took over the wicketkeeping duties, but Stewart was fit to resume on Sunday morning. He is relying on a similar recovery timetable now.

The mixed feelings of those who would replace him were encapsulated by Russell. "It's obviously not a good thing to have injury and illness around, but it's funny how life has its strange twists," he said. "To play for your country is the greatest thing and I feel like a little schoolboy again."

Hick was less effusive. "I am excited about it, of course I am," he said, while giving the firm impression that he has already suffered too many disappointments to get carried away. He played the last of his 46 Test matches at Lord's in July of 1996, but has since maintained a first-class average well above 50 and, only three weeks ago, completed 100 centuries. His Test career has not been judged by normal standards but by impossibly high expectations and there may yet be better to come.

For now, though, England must hope that Stewart wakes restored, that Hick and Russell are superfluous and that disruption is kept to a minimum. Butcher, who could not bat against the gentlest bowling without pain yesterday, can almost certainly be discounted and the preference for James over Darren Maddy or Nick Knight is intriguing.

Maddy was identified as the likely Test opener during an impressive A-team tour last winter and both he and Knight played in the one-day internationals last month. Neither has been in prime form and James deserves his chance on sheer weight of runs over the past three seasons for Glamorgan. "He has made an irresistible case," Graveney said. Already, in this fractured start to summer, James has championship scores of 227 and 152; he also made 79 and 45 against Middlesex at Lord's, which the selectors considered relevant.

South Africa, chastened by their inadequate bowling at Edgbaston, are also likely to alter their opening batsmen, in their case through choice. Gerry Liebenberg will probably be left out to accommodate Adam Bacher.

If the rain that is forecast stays away, Lord's will be resplendent this morning, with the first of four capacity crowds observing the opening of the new Grand Stand by the Duke of Edinburgh. A wet start would mean that an already damp pitch would sweat under cover and turn the building works at the Nursery End of the ground into a quagmire.

Yet the main news of the morning will concern Stewart and, if he requires any encouragement to tackle his latest load, he can reflect upon 1907, when South Africa first played at Lord's and a character called Percy Sherwell captained the side, kept wicket, opened the batting and made a century.

LORD'S DETAILS

ENGLAND (from): M A Atherton, S P James, N Hussain, A J Stewart (captain), G P Thorpe, M R Ramprakash, M A Ealham, R D B Croft, D G Cork, D W Headley, A R C Fraser, C E W Silverwood, M A Butcher, G A Hick, R C Russell.

SOUTH AFRICA (from): G Kirsten, A M Bacher, J H Kallis, D J Cullinan, W J Cronje (captain), J N Rhodes, S M Pollock, L Klusener, M V Boucher, P R Adams, A A Donald, B M McMillan.

Umpires: G Sharp and D B Hair (Australia).

Dropped midfield player bares his soul to reveal first signs of tension in Hoddle's squad

England feel Beckham's sense of loss

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN LA BAULE

THE first public sign of tension and emotion swirling around the England camp emerged here yesterday when David Beckham, the nation's favourite football pin-up, spoke openly and honestly about the problems he was having trying to recover from the "devastation" he felt when he discovered that he had been left out of England's opening World Cup match on Monday.

The choice of Darren Anderton to play at right wing back in the 2-0 victory over Tunisia instead of Beckham, who has so long been synonymous with success and glamour and sublime talent, was the most controversial selection in Glenn Hoddle's starting line-up. It is said to have shocked even the senior professionals in the squad.

Beckham was allowed to speak to the media for the first time since the game yesterday and admitted that he had been so upset when he was first told of the England coach's decision that he had confronted Hoddle about his choice and questioned its fairness. He said that he still did not know why he had been dropped from the team after starting every one of England's World Cup qualifying games.

Hoddle was not available for comment, but the question of whether Beckham should be reprieved for the crucial match against the group G seeds, Romania, in Toulouse on Monday, especially in the light of Anderton's inconsistent performance against Tunisia, is likely to dominate his thinking in the coming days.

Beckham seems to feel that he has a chance of forcing his way back into Hoddle's plans. He said that he was trying even harder than usual in training, doing everything he could to catch the coach's eye. But he admitted that it was like slow torture agonising over just what he had done to deserve the treatment that had been meted out to him and sweating over whether he would win his place back.

"I was devastated when the manager told us the team," Beckham said. "I played in every game leading up to the World Cup finals, I started every game, so to be told I was not in the starting XI was pretty hard for me. Some people have been saying my form has dipped towards the end of the season, and maybe for a couple of Manchester United games I was tired, but I didn't really think my form had dipped that much.

"My first feeling when I heard was one of hurt. My stomach was turning over so many times it was unbelievable. He [Hoddle] told me in front of everyone. I tried to hide my disappointment, but it was pretty hard because we had training just afterwards and it was pretty hard to get into that. It is just one of those things, I suppose.

"I have had a few days to think about what I could have done wrong and I don't really know. The manager had a chat to me but at the time I was still a bit gutted. He did not really give me a reason. He told me the team and that was it. I did question the manager at the time. I did ask him questions and he gave me answers. He did not turn round to me and say 'you are not going to play again', thank God. He said 'you are going to get your chance'.

"I still have not got over it. I have not come to terms with it even now. I was happy when we got the result against Tunisia, but not being on the pitch and involved in the game was quite upsetting for me. Being on the bench watching the team sing the national anthem was as hard for me as being told I was not in the team.

"I know there are 22 players in the squad, so I am not the only one left out," added Beckham, 23, who had played 15 times for England without scoring a goal before arriving in France.

At the end of the press conference, Beckham sought out a tabloid journalist who had suggested that the reason he had been dropped was that Hoddle thought he had an attitude problem. "You don't know me, so don't judge me," Beckham told him. He also railed at the thought that Hoddle might have distrusted him because he attracts so much publicity.

"Most of the things surrounding me are caused by people always wanting to take pictures of me out. Just because I have got a famous girlfriend, it does not mean that I am up in the clouds and no one can speak to me.

"I have been on the phone with my Mum and Dad and they have been trying to talk me round. I could have gone round with my head down and sulked like a few people have suggested that I did, but that is not the way I am. I have got a hard task now to get back in.

"Darren did well, all the midfield did well. All I can do is do my best in training and do my best when I do get a chance. If I can get on for 20 minutes even, then hopefully I can do the business."

Finally, someone asked him if he had had any messages of support from anyone at Manchester United. "No," he said with a smile. "No one's got my number."

ROSS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT



Beckham can still find time to share a laugh with Graeme Le Saux in training yesterday

Anderton: surprisingly took Beckham's place

Colombia send Asprilla home

FROM BRIAN GLANVILLE IN MONTPELLIER

FAUSTINO ASPRILLA, the volatile Colombia centre forward, is on his way home. He was thrown out of the squad yesterday, more in sorrow than in anger, by Hernán Dario Gomez, the coach. The reason is Asprilla's angry reaction to being substituted near the end of the 1-0 defeat by Romania at St Etienne on Monday.

Gomez said: "He has been punished by his exclusion from the squad. The interview he had with a journalist friend is not normal, so you have to do something, observing the regulations. The regulations do not allow for such criticism. These situations just occur and people leave. It's not good for the game, but football regulations must be observed. People who do not observe them are on their way out. I'm here to ensure Colombia do not do badly."

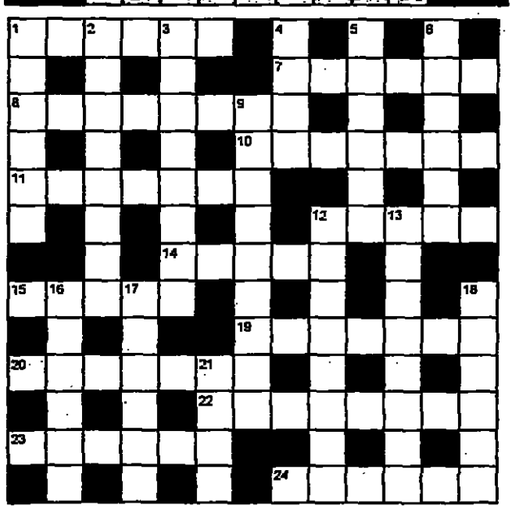
It must be questionable whether sending Asprilla home is the way to achieve that. Throughout the first half against Romania, Asprilla was left in attack on his own with minimal support and minimal service. Only when Valencia brought his bulk and speed on to the field at half-time did Asprilla have more of a chance and, though he hardly set St Etienne alight, he did have one glorious rubber-legged dribble late in the game that ended with a pass that could have brought the equalising goal.

England will not be disappointed that they do not have to face him in Lens on June 26. Alan Shearer, the England captain and a former teammate at Newcastle United, said: "I am very surprised by the news, although at this stage we don't really know the details of it. Tino is a top-class player and he was a great favourite with the Newcastle fans.

"Everybody who played with him at Newcastle knows what a dangerous player he is. Anybody who saw the hat-trick he scored against Barcelona will never forget it. That's what Colombia would be missing."

Asprilla told the reporter that he did not think it was fair for him to be substituted when "other players have become untouchables, and had played worse". It was assumed that he must have been referring to the Carlos Valderrama, 35, the playmaker, who made scant contribution to the game.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1435

ACROSS
1 Unproductive (6)
7 Direct (clash) (4-2)
8 René —, Belgian surrealist (8)
10 In accordance with right conduct (7)
11 Eg poacher's dog (7)
12 Loud-music nightclub (5)
14 Forces' canteen (5)
15 Devout behaviour (5)
19 Mollify (7)
20 Back gate (7)
22 Sunken continent (some say) (8)
23 Pick (for team) (6)
24 One in minor orders (6)

DOWN
1 Be clumsy; Oliver Twist beadle (6)
2 Fashion industry (3,5)
3 Manifestation; Church festival (8)
4 Sharpen (4)
5 Gauguin's island (6)
6 Tiny-stones picture (6)
9 Shrewish woman (9)
12 Oust (8)
13 Of the meaning of words (8)
16 Cymbeline heroine (6)
17 Sway unsteadily (6)
18 Scripture reading; learning period (6)
21 Speed; criticise; a tax (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1434
ACROSS: 1 Facility 5 Bath 9 Job's comforter 10 Peru 11 Languid 13 Answer 15 Bandit 18 Thought 20 Cage 23 To be or not to be 24 Maze 25 Henchman
DOWN: 1 Fiji 2 Cable 3 Lecture 4 Tumult 6 Astound 7 Heredity 8 Boon 12 Factotum 14 Showbiz 16 Ascetic 17 Stance 19 Grog 21 Gloom 22 Lean

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THE WORLD CUP TODAY page 50
http://www.the-times.co.uk/worldcup
Nigeria v Bulgaria (4.30 ITV) Spain v Paraguay (8.00 BBC)

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